

## Sharif Zaid returns from Oman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker returned to Amman Wednesday following a brief visit to Muscat where he delivered a message to Sultan Qaboos of Oman from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with current Arab affairs and means of bolstering bilateral relations. The prime minister returned with a reply message for the King from Sultan Qaboos, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. Cabinet members and senior officials welcomed the prime minister upon his return. According to an official quoted by Reuters, the prime minister's talks in Oman also covered possible financial help from the sultanate for Jordan. Oman has given aid of \$20 million to Jordan since April and cabinet ministers say Muscat has pledged another \$10 million this year, according to Reuters.

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## 5 killed in Gaza, W. Bank

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies)** — Israeli soldiers disguised as labourers and driving a private car fatally shot two Palestinians in the Gaza Strip Wednesday, Arab witnesses said. Three Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel were reported killed by unknown assailants.

The army confirmed the deaths of two suspected collaborators, one in an Israeli prison camp and said it was checking the other reports.

Reporters in the Gaza Strip said the soldiers, operating under cover, came upon a gang of masked Palestinians in the Bureij refugee camp and opened fire.

New army firing orders issued recently define masked Palestinians as suspects and allow soldiers to open fire with live ammunition after first shouting a warning, then firing in the air. If warnings at not heeded, soldiers are permitted to fire at the suspects' legs.

Earlier, troops were allowed to open fire at masked men only if they were armed.

At least seven Palestinians were shot and wounded in the incident in the Bureij camp and in stone-throwing demonstrations that followed, the reporters said.

They said the army took away one of the bodies and that Palestinians took the second body into a mosque, which was then blocked by soldiers. One victim was identified as Mahmoud Abu Shumala, 22, but the name of the second was not available.

The army declared the camp a "closed military zone" and denied reporters entry.

Nine Palestinians were wounded by troops in stone-throwing clashes elsewhere in the occupied lands on Wednesday, including five in the Khan Younis refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

One victim was a four-year-old girl, who was hit by a rubber bullet in the mouth, doctors at Nasser hospital said.

The army announced it had rounded up a resistance group from the West Bank village of Deir Balut. It said the group was suspected of attacking an Israeli contractor in January and plotting to kidnap soldiers and civilians in 1988.

The United Nations relief agency for Palestinians Wednesday rejected Israeli criticism of its part in organising a press tour of refugee camps in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli troops stopped the tour by 40 journalists taking place Tuesday, saying their presence could spark demonstrations in the camps in the Nablus area.

An army statement said it was unacceptable that the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) was "turning into an agent for public relations... for residents of the refugee camps."

UNRWA issued a statement saying that as an international humanitarian group it was obliged to provide information on its work and how it spends public funds.

"In an effort to do so the agency arranged a visit to its installations in the northern part of the West Bank for members of the Foreign Press Association (FPA)," it said.



Scores of Muslim and Christian Lebanese stand in queue at the museum crossing, the only link between the divided capital, and wait for their turn to cross the passageway. People are subject to search by rival army brigades and militiamen before moving.

## Taif gathering tackles 46-year-old pact on government job allocations

**TAIF, Saudi Arabia (Agencies)** — Lebanese members of parliament were Wednesday trying to dismantle an archaic system which allocates government jobs on sectarian lines in a bid to bring peace to war-weary Lebanon.

The 62 deputies, evenly divided between Christians and Muslims, are meeting in the Saudi Arabian mountain resort of Taif, to pick their way through a "charter for national reconciliation" prepared by Arab peace-makers as the basis for a new Lebanon.

In four full days of talks they have completed a first reading of the first half of the document but they have not yet broached the key question of a Syrian troop withdrawal.

One deputy said debate on less sensitive issues may be deliberately prolonged in the hope that backroom meetings could patch together a compromise formula on withdrawal.

"You could say there's a certain reluctance to tackle the withdrawal. No one wants to spoil the atmosphere," he added.

The Lebanese broadly agree on

abolishing political sectarianism — the codeword for the job distribution system, but differ on how quickly it should go through.

Under informal rules which date back to independence from France in 1943, the system apportioned jobs to all levels of the civil service, the diplomatic corps, the security forces and even the water and electricity boards.

The 1943 covenant gave the premiership to the Sunni Muslims and parliament speakership to the Shi'ite Muslims. Maronites, then the majority of the population, held the presidency and dominated the government, army, parliament and judiciary.

Muslims now make up 55 per cent of the population of four million.

Under a proposed new system, jobs will be filled on "merit," rather than sectarian basis.

The parliamentarians agreed Tuesday to expand the 99-member parliament to ensure equal distribution of seats between Christians and Muslims.

Initially, an Arab League committee charged with mediating a settlement in Lebanon, had proposed

that the number be increased to 128.

But conference sources, insisting on anonymity, said the parliamentarians agreed Tuesday to add only nine more seats to the present chamber, giving them all to the Muslims to make them equal to the Christians.

However, no agreement was reported in the debate over presidential powers, which Muslims want curtailed to give the Muslim premiers and house speakers a wider role in the decision-making process.

The Arab League committee comprises Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal has attended the sessions, often intervening to defuse heated arguments.

"To abolish political factionalism is easier said than done," one deputy said, requesting anonymity. "It indeed is an issue too explosive for the parliamentarians to handle without prior consent of the warlords," whose militias control the streets after government authority has been eroded by 14 years of civil war.

Two of these militia heads, Walid Junblatt, a Druze, and Nabih Berri, a Shi'ite, flew to Tehran this week where they criticised the Taif meetings, indicating they would not endorse any accord.

"The deputies may well agree on a new formula (charter), but the test of implementation will certainly prove more difficult. The Maronites are not going to go down willingly," said the deputy in Taif, alluding to the Lebanese Forces coalition of right-wing militias.

The Lebanese Forces have not openly vetoed the reforms demanded by Muslims as the basis for a settlement of the civil war.

In preparation for the debate on a Syrian withdrawal, Muslim and leftist deputies have spoken out in favour of a prolonged Syrian presence to maintain law and order.

"Under present circumstances the Syrian army must stay. Either we accept this fact to take shelter underground again," Farid Jibril, a leftist Christian deputy told reporters.

He said he hoped he would be able to return one day to his country and his family.

In a memo to the judge last week, the U.S. attorney's office said Yonis was one of the members of Amal who held U.S. hostages in Beirut in connection with the hijacking of TWA Flight 847, days after the hijacking of the Jordanian airliner.

In the TWA hijacking, American navy diver was killed. Yonis admitted he had been among the first to enter the TWA airliner when it landed at Beirut airport, said the government's sentencing memo.

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## Conference issues recommendations on 'Safeguarding the Future'

# 'Women, population, environment vital to development'

By Suhair Obeidat  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A three-day regional conference on "Safeguarding the Future" concluded here Wednesday after producing a series of recommendations based on linking women, population and environment to development and progress.

The conference, organised by

the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) in coordination with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), discussed working papers which addressed the three elements as "key issues to be taken into consideration when planning for the future" and said integration of the three was central to development and progress.

Announcing the recommenda-

tions was Dr. Hassan Ibrahim, a professor in the University of Kuwait.

The main aspect of the link between development and population is "the gap in the level of incomes and particularly between the rural and urban areas," the conference found. It recommended a number of points to be

(Continued on page 3)

## Cairo names delegates to proposed dialogue

**CAIRO (Agencies)** — Egypt, backed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has put forward the names of 12 Palestinians to sit at the negotiating table in a proposed first meeting between Palestinians and Israelis, Palestinian sources said Wednesday.

Egypt has been trying to bridge the gap between Palestinians and Israelis after an Israeli election initiative aimed at ending the uprising in the occupied territories was deadlocked.

Egyptian officials were not immediately available to comment on the list of 12 names given to Reuters by the sources.

President Hosni Mubarak carried the names with him to Washington where he met U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker this week, the sources added.

The 12 were listed as: Hanna Siniora, editor of Al Fajr, based in Arab Jerusalem; Faisal Al Hussini, director of Arab Studies Society of Arab Jerusalem; Jamil Tarifi, a lawyer from the West Bank town of Al Birah; Bassam Shakaa, former mayor of Nablus; Elias Freij, mayor of Bethlehem; Akram Haniya, an expelled Palestinian journalist; Mohammad Milhem, member of the PLO Executive Committee and mayor of Halhoul in the West Bank until his expulsion by Israel in 1982; Fayez Abu Rahme, resident of Gaza and chairman of the lawyers' syndicate in the occupied territories; Radwan Abu Ayash, chairman of the journalists'

syndicate in the occupied areas; Asaad Saftawi, a headmaster in Gaza; Mustafa Natshe of the West Bank, deposed as mayor of Hebron in 1983; Saeed Kanaan, a businessman.

Meanwhile Egypt's Foreign Minister said he plans to visit Israel to follow up on Mubarak's Washington conversations with Bush.

Esmat Abdul Meguid indicated the projected visit was not imminent but said the two presidents agreed at Monday's meeting in the White House that the United States should help with arrangements.

Mubarak returned to Cairo Tuesday after a week-long tour that took him to France and Italy in addition to the United States. Abdul Meguid accompanied him throughout.

The leading state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram quoted the president Wednesday as saying he was satisfied with his talks with Bush. But he added: "I don't want to hasten to speak about results because it is more important to achieve aims."

Disclosing his travel plans, Abdul Meguid told Al-Ahram: "The two leaders agreed there should be constant contacts between myself, (U.S. Secretary of State) James Baker in Washington and the Israeli government to fix a date for me to go to Tel Aviv for talks."

In Washington Monday, Baker publicly endorsed Mubarak's proposal for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo.

Additionally, Mubarak advanced a 10-point plan in the form of suggested clarifications of the Israeli election proposal.

Mubarak's ideas split Israel's coalition government almost down the middle, with Shimon Peres opposing them and the Labour party of Finance Minister Shimon Peres largely in favour.

Israel's inner cabinet is to consider Mubarak's proposals at a meeting Thursday.

Israeli commentators and government officials say there is no immediate prospect of the coalition breaking up over the plan.

Labour has accepted the proposals but the Likud rejects several of them, notably swapping land for peace and negotiating with Palestinians from outside the occupied territories.

But the most likely outcome expected in Israel is for the inner cabinet to agree to negotiate the composition of the Palestinian delegation at any Cairo talks, followed by weeks or months of internal haggling.

"The meeting on Thursday will be to postpone a decision, probably by agreeing to have talks about talks," a government source said.

Negotiating with Egypt about who would represent the Palestinians would gain time, and "time is very precious," the source said.

A prominent Islamic leader from the Gaza Strip said Wednesday the Egyptian blueprint fell short of expectations in the occupied territories.

## Uneasy calm in Panama as Noriega consolidates grip

**PANAMA CITY (Agencies)** — An uneasy calm gripped Panama on Wednesday as military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega consolidated control of the country a day after quelling an uprising by rebel army officers.

Authorities said a dusk-to-dawn curfew was lifted as planned and the capital was quiet during the night. Most businesses were open and traffic was running smoothly.

Local television channels remained off the air most of Tuesday night, except the government-operated station, which in an ironic touch broadcast U.S. baseball most of the evening.

With U.S. authorities in Washington denying charges by Noriega of U.S. complicity in the attempt to oust him, American forces in this strategic Central American nation remained on "delta alert" status, a state of readiness only one below combat status.

U.S. troops were told to stay in place and be ready for evacuation, if necessary, but otherwise to report to work as scheduled. They were also told to follow special protected routes to and from their bases and offices.

Panama Canal Commission officials said the canal, which links the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, was operating normally. Schools were open but some

citizens said they would not send their children until the situation was clearer.

Details of Tuesday's fighting remained sketchy as the government barred reports, saying information on the attempt must come only from the ministry of government and justice.

Noriega was quick to blame the revolt on the United States, which has been trying to oust him for more than 1½ years.

"The proof is that American troops closed access routes to the Barracks," Noriega said, "just as they closed the Pan-American highway."

U.S. President George Bush denied any role in the rebellion, but reiterated that the United States would still like to see Noriega ousted.

"I want to see democracy in Panama succeed," he said in Washington Tuesday night. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the Bush administration had some advance word that a coup attempt might be afoot.

Noriega was indicted on drug-trafficking charges in the United States in February 1988, but maintains those charges are part of a U.S. plot to keep possession of the Panama Canal.

Control of the waterway reverts to Panama at the end of the century under a 1977 treaty. The Noriega-dominated gov-

ernment, citing U.S. interference in its internal affairs, also annulled May elections after international observers said its slate of candidates had lost by a landslide.

U.S. troops moved into position only a few hundred metres from the fighting Tuesday and temporarily closed the main bridge over the canal, over which the Pan-American Highway crosses. U.S. spokesman said those were only security measures and that U.S. soldiers did not take part in the fighting.

The move basically closed off routes into the barracks area from the north and west, but left access from the east. The Panama Bay is to the south.

About 50,000 U.S. citizens live in Panama, including more than 12,000 U.S. military personnel attached to the U.S. Southern Command, the country's military headquarters for Latin America.

Although witnesses reported some deaths during the fighting, Panamanian Defence Forces (PDF) spokesman Edgardo Lopez would say only that a number of soldiers were wounded and refused to be more specific.

Tuesday's coup attempt was more serious than a failed coup on March 16, 1988, but it appeared that only elements of the Urraca Battalion, which is in charge of security at PDF headquarters, were involved.

## Thousands of East Germans head West

**PRAGUE (R)** — Twelve thousand East Germans began leaving Czechoslovakia for the West Wednesday in the biggest single exodus in a four-month-old refugee crisis which has strained the Communist bloc.

In East Berlin a new crisis began to unfold as police sealed off the United States embassy after a group of East Germans took refuge there, demanding passage to the West.

After long and bewildering delays, the first East Germans left their refuge in Bonn's Prager embassy, heading for special trains to take them through their old homeland to West Germany.

A dozen "freedom trains" were to carry the refugees across the East-West "iron curtain" frontier to a new life. The departure had been de-

layed while police sealed railway stations in East Germany to prevent crowds of citizens from joining the train exodus.

Thousands of people in East Germany, mostly young and many carrying rucksacks and travel bags, packed East German railway stations and lined the tracks, hoping to board one of the trains.

Many of the Prague throng spent the night outdoors sleeping on rubbish-strewn cobblestones in front of the overcrowded embassy. Women and children were packed inside the building to shelter them from the cold.

In West Germany 350 Red Cross medical and support personnel and stacks of donated warm clothing and blankets awaited them.

The 12,000 East Germans

who had arrived in Prague since Sunday, may be the last of the lucky ones. Their arrival in the West will bring to almost 50,000 the number to reach West Germany via Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland since May.

But East Germany has now closed its doors by suspending visa-free travel to Czechoslovakia, the last easy route to the West. Refugees may no longer be able to flee via the territory of East Berlin's Warsaw Pact allies.

With that route shut, 18 East Germans have taken refuge in the U.S. embassy in East Berlin, and the State Department said it would seek a "humanitarian solution" for them.

The Prague exodus, agreed between Czechoslovakia and East Germany, capped four months of crisis triggered when

Communist Hungary tore down its border fortifications with the West in May.

Announcing the latest departure of its citizens Wednesday, East Germany said it was "expelling" the refugees by providing trains to carry them across East German territory to West Germany.

"In agreement with the Czechoslovak government, the East German government has decided to expel via the territory of East Germany those East German citizens illegally staying in the West German embassy in Prague," an East German statement said.

The government was worried about "the children who have been put in a distressing situation by their parents and who cannot be made responsible for their miscreant behaviour."

The statements and arrangements mirrored events of last Sunday, when 6,300 East Germans travelled to West Germany on trains from Prague, joined by many who joined the trains in East Germany.

East Berlin again denounced Bonn Wednesday, accusing it of cynically creating the crisis and of breaking its word by letting refugees enter its embassies in Eastern Europe.

"We are not just dealing with the Bonn government breaking its word but also with a continued unrestrained campaign to lure East German citizens away..." it said.

"But there is more too, more serious things. It must be clearly said again that this also involves the frequent breach of international law by the West German government."



# Soviet Union, Pakistan agree on U.N. consensus on Afghan solution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Soviet Union and Pakistan have agreed on a U.N. consensus resolution welcoming the Soviet troop withdrawal and calling for a political settlement, Pakistani sources said Tuesday.

Sources familiar with the agreement said it was reached by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and Pakistani Foreign Minister Shahbaz Qayyum-Khan during a two-hour meeting Sunday night at the Soviet mission.

"I can safely say that we have been able to coordinate our positions on a number of issues, which is a good augury for the future," Qayyum-Khan told a correspondent for the Associated Press of Pakistan.

Pakistani and Soviet officials were not immediately available for comment Tuesday, but the sources said both sides agreed to avoid a fight over the resolution by putting aside contentious issues in the current General Assembly.

The issue is expected to be taken up late October or early November.

The Soviet Union has complained that Pakistan is violating the U.N.-mediated Geneva accords on Afghanistan by sending arms to the anti-government Afghan rebels. Pakistan says the Soviet-backed regime of Afghan leader Najibullah is illegal, but both sides agreed not to raise those issues, the sources said.

Instead the resolution is expected to welcome the Soviet troop withdrawal, support the U.N. secretary-general's efforts and call for an intra-Afghan dialogue and establishment of a broad-based representative government.

Soviet troop withdrawal was completed early this year, after the Soviets suspended the pullout

because of Pakistan's continued arming of rebel groups.

Last year the General Assembly also adopted a consensus resolution on Afghanistan — instead of the usual divisive vote against the Soviet presence — and it welcomed the Soviet intention to withdraw.

Qayyum-Khan declined to give details after his meeting with Shevardnadze, but said he was "very satisfied" with his talks. "The approach of both sides regarding the consensus resolution is congruous and convergent," he said.

"We both understand the importance of working for a comprehensive, peaceful settlement and that such a settlement is the right path to take, rather than resort to a military solution which we do not think is likely to produce the desired results," he said.

The United States also supports the Afghan rebels and for years has been funneling weapons through Pakistan to aid the guerrillas. The U.N.-mediated Geneva agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan provides for non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

The Soviet Union and Afghanistan say arming and training the guerrillas is a clear violation of the agreement and interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The Soviet Union, however, supports and arms the Kabul government, which the West claims is a violation of the pact.

Meanwhile Kabul radio said rebels fired three rockets into the Afghan capital Tuesday killing three people and injuring 11.

The broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, said the attack was carried out by "criminal extremists," a description Kabul uses for the guerrillas.

On Sunday, rebel rockets killed 10 people in Kabul, including staff at the Afghan Red Crescent Society, according to the radio.

Afghan rebel leaders vowed at a seminar in Tehran Tuesday to fight until they had overthrown the government of Kabul.

The Iranian News Agency (INRA) quoted Baz Mohammad, described as commander of Mujahideen troops in Baghlan province, as saying the guerrillas would battle against the "Marxist regime in Kabul until its downfall."

Pakistani senator Khorshid Ahmad told the seminar, which opened Monday, that "armed struggle as well as political negotiations can launch Afghanistan into its future course," INRA reported.

The Mujahideen should "complete their armed struggle with political operations," he said, adding that the days of the government of President Najibullah in Kabul were numbered.

Mohammad Younes Ghannouni, said by INRA to represent the commander of the Mujahideen Supervisory Council, said the rebels had full or partial control over 13 Afghan provinces.

The rebel leaders said Tuesday they are willing to consider a political settlement of the Afghan problem, but ruled out direct talks with government in Kabul, Tehran Television reported.

Sigbatullah Mojaddidi, leader of the interim Afghan government, and Abdul Karim Khalili, head of the Iran-based coalition of Afghan rebels, aired their views in separate interviews on Tehran Television, monitored in

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

### MEA resumes flights to Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Lebanon's Middle East Airline (MEA) has resumed flights to Turkey after a break of nearly seven months, an airline official said Wednesday. "The first flight since the run was stopped on March 7 landed at Ankara Tuesday," she said. The airline will fly from Beirut to Ankara on Tuesdays and to Istanbul on Sundays, returning on the same days. A spokesman of the state-run Turkish Airlines (THY) said there were no reciprocal flights to Beirut planned at present. Middle East Airlines has resumed operations since an Arab-sponsored ceasefire came into force in Lebanon ahead of talks between Lebanese parliamentarians now taking place in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

### U.S. envoy returning home for talks

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. ambassador to Turkey is returning to Washington for consultations on a Senate resolution which condemns genocide against Armenians and has created new tensions with Turkey, State Department officials have said. Ambassador Morton Abramowitz, who is expected back this weekend, had sought the consultations on the resolution filed by Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, officials told Reuters. The resolution would designate April 24, 1990, as a "national day of remembrance of the 75th anniversary of the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923." It asks the president to issue a proclamation urging Americans to remember on this date the 1.5 million Armenians "who were victims of the genocide perpetrated by the governments of the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, prior to the establishment of the Republic of Turkey." An aide to Dole said 53 of the Senate's 100 members had agreed to co-sponsor the resolution. Dole, in a statement, said he hoped the resolution would not be misunderstood. "I do not believe that Senate action on this resolution need in any way affect our strong security ties with Turkey, nor our close friendship with the Turkish people," he said. "All of the events in question occurred long before the Republic of Turkey was formed and before the overwhelming majority of the Turkish people was even born," Dole added.

### Amnesty fears for lives of detainees

PARIS (AP) — Amnesty International Tuesday called on the Moroccan government to provide emergency medical care to six political detainees who the human rights group fears may be facing death. In a statement issued in Paris, the Nobel Peace Prize winning human rights group said the six men were arrested in 1984 and "accused of political crimes." They began a hunger strike last June to protest conditions of their detention. Amnesty said the men have been denied visits by their lawyers and family members and called on Moroccan authorities to allow the prisoners to receive visitors. Hassan Aharrat and Nouredine Jonhari, held at Averroes Hospital, "no longer have contact with their doctors and are tied to their beds in an underground ward. They are being force-fed through tubes," Amnesty said. A third detainee, Moulay Tahar Douraidi, was taken to an unknown hospital and his mother has been refused permission to see him, the statement said. The other detainees include Alami Bouti Hassan, Benabdellah Abdelilah and Boukourou Abdul Fattah, who Amnesty noted, suffers from diabetes. The Moroccan government has called the six men "common criminals" and said any actions taken on their behalf will constitute interference in the internal affairs of the country.

# Scarce rains, tribal conflicts, locusts threaten western Sudan

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Scarce rains, tribal conflicts and locusts have resulted in a pitifully small harvest in western Sudan which threatens the area's six million inhabitants with famine, an official report released Tuesday said.

A report by the Darfur regional government's agricultural planning unit described the situation as "very critical" in western Sudan.

The report was issued by the early warning section of the western region's agriculture department that was set up with British help in the wake of the serious drought in 1984 which created a famine that killed thousands of Sudanese.

The report said that scarce rains on the western regions of Darfur and Kordofan had resulted in the cultivation of only between 20 to 30 per cent of the arable land. It said tribal conflicts which have killed several thousand people in the past few

years made many farmers abandon their land which also reduced the cultivated areas.

"The sesame crop used as a basic cash crop in northern Kordofan has completely failed and this spells disaster for small scale farmers whose livelihood is tied to it," the report said.

"The situation is made worse by grasshoppers which are hindering crop development... and where tribal conflict has taken place, the area under cultivation has decreased considerably."

The report said that in the past two months, there were sharp rises in grain prices and livestock in the two regions and that in some villages, grain was no longer available for sale.

A Sudanese agricultural expert who spoke on condition he not be named, told AP that of Sudan's last season's production of sorghum, the main staple in the country, only 300,000 tonnes remained. He said this stock re-

serve was "pitifully inadequate" and said the country would have to immediately import grain.

The expert said that Sudan's overall agricultural performance this season had yielded only 30 per cent of its capacity because of shortages in diesel oil necessary for extensive mechanised farming in the central region.

"Farmers used to get 70 per cent of their diesel oil needs in the black market which the new revolutionary government has stopped and brought under control," he said.

The military overthrew the civilian government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi June 30.

Also facing the military government is a faltering economy and a six-year-old civil war which costs it \$1 million a day. The war has created a man-made famine which the United Nations estimates killed 250,000 southerners in 1988.

# Turkey, Bulgaria take ethnic issue to General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Turkey has appealed to the 159-nation General Assembly to condemn what it called Bulgaria's forced assimilation of its Turkish minority.

Some 300,000 ethnic Turks have either been deported or simply left their homes to escape the assimilation campaign, under which they are prohibited from using Turkish names or speaking Turkish in public.

Bulgaria rejected Turkey's charges of inhuman treatment of its Muslim minority, said ethnic Turks were free to travel abroad and return at will and denounced Turkey's alleged suppression of its own Kurdish minority.

On Wednesday, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) was to meet in New York

to consider the problem of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

At the end of the day Tuesday, after formal speeches, there was a heated exchange in the General Assembly between Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz and Bulgarian Foreign Minister Petar Mladenov.

The strong speech Tuesday by Yilmaz was the first time that Turkey has taken its long-standing complaint to the U.N. General Assembly, delivering a two-page litany of the woes of Bulgarian Turks.

Yilmaz said his government wishes to negotiate a comprehensive agreement with Bulgaria on emigration.

Yilmaz denounced Bulgaria's "inhuman assimilation and rep-

ression campaign against its Turkish minority since the end of 1984."

"All nations should join in condemning the shameful policies which forced hundreds of thousands of men, women and children to emigrate to Turkey, leaving behind their lands, homes, possessions, social rights and sometimes their sons," he said.

He said Turkey prefers "not to see more of our kinsmen uprooted from their homes and would rather have them live in Bulgaria, as loyal citizens of that country and enjoying fully their human and minority rights."

But he said Turkey was ready to receive all Bulgarian Turks who may wish to leave.

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**Jordan Times'**  
**JORDAN MARKET PLACE**

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30	Programme review	17:00	Koran
15:45	Children programme	17:15	Children programme
17:00	News in French	17:30	Religious programme
17:15	News for the Deaf	17:45	Religious programme
17:30	Religious programme	18:00	Religious programme
18:00	Health programme	18:15	Religious programme
18:15	Local review	18:30	Feature film
18:30	Programme review	18:45	Message from Oman
18:45	News in Arabic	19:00	Local programme
19:00	Local programme	19:15	Local programme
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### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	Champs Elysees	19:00	News in French
17:45	Champs Elysees	19:15	News in French
18:00	Champs Elysees	19:30	News in French
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## Women, population and environment

(Continued from page 1)

taken into consideration when drawing up national and regional development plans.

— Bridging the gap between income levels, to achieve a more equitable distribution, particularly between urban and rural areas.

— Limiting negative consumption habits, consequently increasing investment and production and the creation of job opportunities.

— Developing education and social skills to enable people to use modern technology.

— Carrying out studies on population distribution to establish a balance between rural and urban growth.

— Linking population to development necessitates the achievement of peace and security as the basic precondition for people's development and natural growth, as was emphasised by His Majesty King Hussein in his opening statement to the conference Monday.

The conference suggested that population policies should be drawn up according to each country's needs and necessities while keeping in view the pan-Arab dimensions of such policies.

Family planning, the conference maintained, is a human right enshrined in the declaration of the United Nations and should not be affected by population policies. It was suggested that information campaigns be carried out to inform and educate people about their rights and duties in this field, and about family planning methods.

The conference recommended that inter-Arab labour migration be monitored with a view to organising and rationalising it and that preference be given to Arab labour over foreign labour.

The conference also recommended the provision of appropriate scientific climate and job opportunities to prevent brain drain of Arab human resources.

It also recommended that population policies accommodate the major issue of internal migration between the rural and urban areas, and the increase of the cities' capacities to absorb more migrants.

According to the conference, joint Arab action is the key to successful regional and national development, and the present Arab economic groups should act as starting points for an Arab common market.

The conference recommended the encouragement of scientific study on population growth in the Arab World in addition to newly industrialised nations to benefit from their experience.

The conference recommended that the UNFPA gather media personnel and experts to effectively translate the outcome of scientific studies on population issues into simple language.

Turning to the issue of women and development, the conference suggested improving ways of valuing women's work, taking their home-based work and unpaid development work into account.

Under the sub-headline education and training, the conference recommended the provision of equal opportunities for education and training for women and men, the emphasis of

vocational and other training for women, and the establishment of a body that would educate people as to the importance of women's education.

Women should have full access to loans and credits in various fields and proper child-care facilities should be provided, it said.

It also called for the provision of appropriate work opportunities by: — Diversifying work opportunities through setting up small industries, and through flexibility in working hours and part-time work; and encouraging the formation of co-operation and non-government organisations.

On health and family planning, the conference suggested that measures be adopted to limit early, late and over-frequent pregnancies.

Legislation and laws relating to women's rights, like labour laws which define and organise women's work, family laws in matter of divorce, pension rights, missions and social security should be reexamined, the conference recommended.

Also under "legislation and information education" was a call for efforts to change negative consumption habits and social constraints on women's full development.

The recommendation paper drew examples of Arab women who have played leadership roles, such as the Iraqi, Palestinian and Algerian women and called for presenting them as models.

The participants also suggested the establishment of a regional centre for research and training for Arab women and a government body with executive powers in each Arab state to handle women's affairs with support from international organisations such as the UNFPA and the International Population Fund.

Linking environment to development, the conference called for protection against unbalanced exploitation of natural resources and for guidance for proper exploitation of such national wealth.

Among other recommendations in the context of environment was calls for its protection in various aspects and through different methods.

Sub-regional plans for early warning of draughts to fight desertification were also recommended.

Tackling the vital issue of food security, the conference suggested the revision of development plans and the improving of water resources in agriculture and industry.

On the issue of national security, demographic and population policies be adopted to secure the distribution of border areas, the conference recommended.

It also suggested that the negative effects of using technology and heavy adaptation of new technology be avoided to prevent harming the environment.

The conference finally recommended a unified Arab approach to the issues of the impact on the ozone layer, the green house effect and poisonous nuclear pollution, as well as the degradation of renewable resources.

Dr. Ousef Mubarak, Iraqi minister of labour and social affairs, delivered a speech in which he thanked the UNFPA and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation for organising the conference.

He also thanked their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor for their patronage of the conference, saying that "it put the conference on the right course."



## King reaffirms national stand

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Wednesday stressed support for the people living in the occupied territories noting that there was no other "objective but the glory of this nation and the Palestinian people's restoration of their full rights in the Palestinian homeland." Addressing army conscripts after attending the graduation of a new batch of air force trainees in one of the air force

bases, the King congratulated the conscripts and said that the Jordanian army "is the army of the Arab Nation that defends the Arab system, the Arab nation, and Arab rights." The King was accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Prince Faisal. Part of the graduation ceremony was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh.

## Rare Islamic art collection on display at National Gallery

By Nelly Lama  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A press conference was held on the Oct. 4, 1989 at the National Gallery of Fine Arts with Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, president of the Royal Society of Fine Arts. The discussion turned around the exhibition of "Contemporary Art in the Muslim World," held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the Duke of Kent on Sept. 14, 1989, at the Concourse Gallery, in the Barbican Centre in London.

The exhibition included 231 works of art, oil paintings, watercolours, sculpture in the round, reliefs and ceramics of 205 artists from 24 Islamic countries, namely: Algeria, Bangladesh, Iraq, Egypt, Kuwait, Bahrain, Morocco, the Sultanate of Oman, Iran, Brunei, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Yemen, Indonesia, Libya, Qatar and Bahrain.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath inaugurated the exhibit with the Duke of Kent and Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali in the presence of the Lord Mayor of London; the Jordanian Ambassador to Britain Dr. Albert Bntros; Mr. Muazzam Ali, president of the Committee of Islamic Arts and other dignitaries. Mr. Suheil Bicharat, director of the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts was also present. Seven hundred people attended the opening, including art critics, journalists, writers,

museum curators and gallery owners.

The exhibition won great appeal, since it is the first of its kind and the largest exhibit for contemporary Islamic art in the West. It was well commented by artists and remained for two weeks atop the list of exhibitions in the Sunday Times. Currently there to six hundred visitors frequent the exhibition daily.

After it ends in Amman on Oct. 14, it might move on to Saudi Arabia, Canada and the USSR.

A book "Contemporary Art in the Islamic World," was prepared for the occasion and was edited by Princess Wijdan Ali with a foreword by Prince Hassan.

It is a great documentary on Arab and Islamic modern art with 96 colour plates and 137 black and white illustrations.

The Egyptian Academy, in Rome has asked for the exhibition and it might travel on to other countries as well, Princess Wijdan said.

"It is bound to come back (to Jordan), since the works belong to the Jordan National Gallery," she said.

The exhibition could not be part of the yearly Jerash Festival, since "there is no space for it there; no professional lighting, security, etc. and taking 40 paintings out of the lot will not have the same effect," she said.

Jordanian artists' contribution to the exhibition amounts to 15 per cent of the whole, she said. "We have received very good criticism," the Princess pointed out. The exhibition widened the horizons of many. One art critic commented "if you keep going at

this pace, you will stop being a Third World country."

Following are some of the questions and answers at the press conference:

Question: About the Hashemite Award promised by the Royal Society of Fine Arts, is it solely a Jordanian contribution?

Answer: The Islamic Arts Foundation in London contributes as well. The Hashemite Award was a suggestion of Crown Prince Hassan at the Conference for the Education of Islamic Art held in Amman in October last year. The award includes a medal of appreciation and a sum of money awarded every other year to artists excelling in the following fields of Islamic Art: Fine arts, crafts and designs, studies and research, conservation of antiquities, art education and publishing.

Q: Have you contributed one of your works in the exhibition?

A: Yes, I put in one of my old works. I have not been able to paint in the last three years because I was preparing the book and the exhibition. I have been working on some calligraphic works but had no chance to finish them before the exhibition at the Barbican.

Q: You must have good references in your archives, are they open to the public?

A: Our archives cover the lives and works of artists in the Arab World. I don't know whether any other Arab country has anything like it. It is not open to the public, but researchers can have access to it. The Ministry of Culture makes use of it, and so do some researchers from the university.

## Queen Noor to lay foundation stone rehabilitation centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will visit Madaba on Thursday Oct. 5 where she will lay down the foundation stone of the Madaba Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Mentally Handicapped.

The centre is one of a series of centres established by the General Union of Voluntary Societies in different parts of the Kingdom that need facilities for the care of the handicapped, particularly the mentally handicapped.

Work on these 9 centres is expected to be completed by the beginning of the coming academic year 1990/1991 when they will start operation, together with the centre for the multi-

handicapped, which Queen Noor had laid down the foundation stone earlier this year in Yajouz and will accommodate 150 difficult cases.

These centres will supplement the series of centres established by the voluntary sector, totalling 50 centres that provide care and rehabilitation in the areas of physical handicap, mental handicap, deaf and dumb, blind and cerebral palsy.

The total number to benefit from these centres is expected to exceed 6 thousand Jordanian children.

The Madaba centre, estimated at the cost of JD 40,000, has a capacity of 40 - 50 cases of dif-

ferent retardations where training and education will be provided for children between the ages of 6 - 12 years.

The structural designs of all the centres are unified, consisting of one floor and comprising a classroom, a multi-purpose hall, office, canteen, kitchen, and basic facilities, and allowing easy motion for retarded children.

Queen Noor will be accompanied on the visit by Minister of Health and Social Development, Dr. Zuabir Malhas.

During the visit Her Majesty will view the exhibition of traditional industries and handicrafts, and will be briefed on the model of the building.

## Ministry begins distribution of voter cards for Nov. 8 polls

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Interior Wednesday started distributing voter cards to voters in various regions of the Kingdom in preparation for the No. 8 parliamentary elections.

On Sept. 29, the government announced that the number of citizens officially registered as voters in the coming elections stood

at 1,019,491, and that over 1,000 candidates are expected to contest the 80 seats in the Lower House of Parliament.

According to election law, candidates could start campaigning from the first day when they register and until the eve of the elections.

According to a government

statement, candidates have to pay a registration fee of JD 500 and present documents which prove that they have been citizens of Jordan for over 10 years at least and do not carry any other nationality.

The candidates also have to present documents which prove that they are registered.

## ILO team briefs ministers on outcome of unemployment survey

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) met here Wednesday with three Jordanian ministers and briefed them on the outcome of their surveys in Jordan in the search for means to solve Jordan's unemployment problem.

The team which had earlier toured several government departments and met officials to discuss the issue, conducted close hand study of the situation before reporting their views to Minister of Labour Jamal Al Bedour, Minister of Education Adnan

Badran, and Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz.

The team also promised to submit a full report on its findings to the Ministry of Labour.

Officials in charge of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) and representatives of the private businesses, the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, the Chambers of Industry and Trade, the Higher Council for Science and Technology and Dr. Ali Atiga resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were all present during the briefing.

The ILO team arrived here last Friday upon the Ministry of Labour's request to study the problem of unemployment and to help find solutions for this problem.

According to Civil Service Commission records, a total of 55,000 job-seekers have applied for employment in the country. Almost half this number are college and university graduates.

The Ministries of Labour and Education are closely cooperating to solve the problem through vocational training programmes at all levels and in specialisations badly needed by the local market.

## Meeting calls on Arab states to draw up housing strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in a three-day symposium on housing and development Tuesday called on the Arab countries to draw up national housing strategies along the lines of the world housing strategies.

At the conclusion of their meetings here, participants recommended that specific planning and design criteria be followed when constructing housing units and housing estates.

They also called on governments to link the housing schemes with the national de-

velopment plans.

Participants made a recommendation calling for reviving the Arab Housing Bank proposal for which a study had already been prepared by the Council of Arab Ministers of Housing and Reconstruction.

They also stressed the need for training Arab labour force and developing building methods and technology with a view to minimising the costs of construction.

Participants called on the United Nations Centre for Human

Settlements and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to look into the methods whereby necessary funds be made available to cover costs of constructing houses for people in the occupied Arab territories.

This recommendation is designed to help the Palestinian people there to hold in the face of the Israeli attempts to expel them from their homeland, by pulling down their houses and enacting legislations authorising the Israelis to expropriate their lands.

## Jordan to attend Baghdad meeting on Arab cooperation in transport

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in a meeting to be held in Baghdad on Oct. 18 to discuss promoting inter-Arab cooperation in transport affairs.

The two-day meeting groups members of the executive committee of the Arab Ministers of Transport Council which includes Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Morocco, in addition to Jordan.

The two-day meeting will focus on a pan-Arab transport strategy, the creation of a pan-Arab board to deal with the question of classifying ships and cargo vessels and to handle the question of

setting up an exhibition displaying Arab industries and transport equipment, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Meanwhile, it was announced in Amman Wednesday that a total of 163,260 travellers benefited from the Aqaba-Nweibeh land-sea route in the past month.

Several ferry-boats commute between the two terminals carrying passengers and their vehicles in either direction.

The route is operated by the Arab Maritime Bridge Company which is owned by Iraq, Jordan and Egypt.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of watercolours on Jordan by Salam Kanaan at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of Islamic scripts at Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Nature and Man" by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Hadidi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition marking the 1st centennial of the Eiffel Tower displaying photographs, drawings and pictures demonstrating the tower in all its aspects at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of Romanian folklore and traditional crafts featuring life in Romania at the Jerusalem Hotel.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Omar Al Busoul at Alfa Art Gallery — 5:00 p.m.

### FILMS

- ★ A feature film entitled "Cocoon" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Two Yugoslav films entitled "Who's Singing Over There" (Arabic subtitled) and "The Two Halves of the Heart" (English subtitled) shown respectively Thursday and Friday as part of the Yugoslav Film Week at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

## Walk through Jordan's past helps its children to a brighter future

AMMAN (J.T.) — "Our past — their future" is the slogan that ties together the two elements of a special charity walk taking place in Amman Friday Oct. 6.

The past is Jordan's rich archaeological heritage, the future is the wellbeing of children in the centres for the disabled in the Suf, Jerash, Baqa'a and Husn refugee camps.

The walk is being organised by the Friends of Archaeology who hope that Jordanians and expatriates will take the chance to learn more about Amman's Iron Age, Roman and Islamic past and raise

money for medical treatment which can help to transform the lives of the approximately 160 children in the centres while enjoying an interesting walk in the autumn sunshine.

Starting point for the walk, which begins at 9:00 a.m., is Rujm Al Kursi a small village with extensive Umayyad, Abbasid and Mamluk remains, located on the Eighth Circle — Sweileh Road just past the King Hussein Medical Centre. It then continues to Khirbet Al Khilda, an unexcavated site thought to have contained a defensible farmhouse.

Rujm Al Khilda a square structure built of massive stones which may also have been farm and Rujm Al Barakh another stone structure thought to date to the late Iron Age (7th-6th centuries B.C.).

Finishing point for the walk, which covers a total of 13 kilometres, will be Rujm Al Meluf, the best preserved round tower in Jordan which is located next to the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre at Jabal Amman, Third Circle.

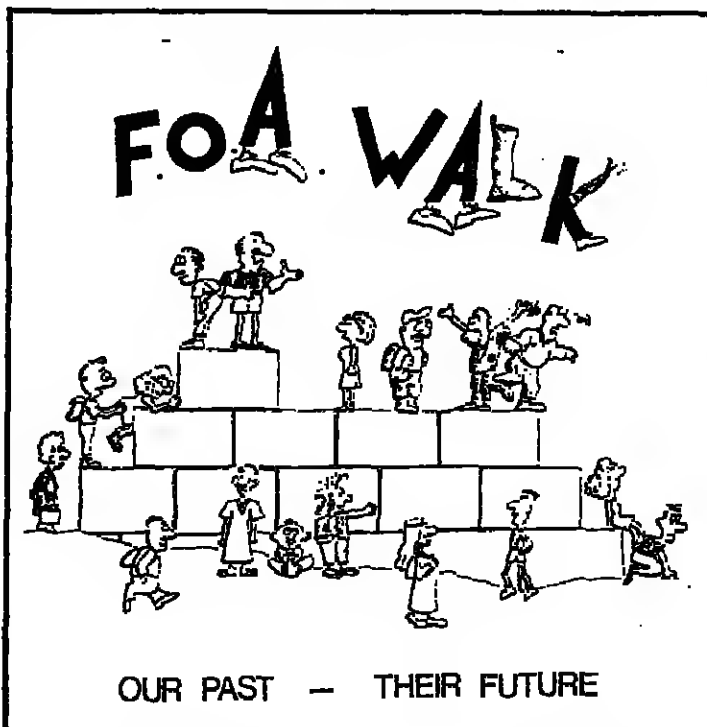
At each site along the way there will be displays with pictures and information about the life of Amman in ancient times.

Free refreshments will also be available and drivers will be on hand to take walkers on to the finishing point or back to their cars if they don't feel up to the full 13 kilometres of the walk.

Entry fee for the walk, which is being held under the patronage of Their Highnesses Prince Ra'ad and Princess Majida, is JD 5 for adults and JD 2 for children under sixteen years and students and includes a special walk T-shirt.

Participants can sign up at the Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental, Safeway Supermarket or the student shop at University of Jordan between 9:00 and 18:00 on Wednesday and Thursday and Oct. 4 and 5 or at Rujm Al Kursi on the morning of the walk.

For more information contact Alison McQuitty, Tel. 841317 or Muna Zaghloul at the Friends of Archaeology, Tel. 659978.



## ROMANIAN FESTIVAL

### Food Festival Romanian Show Trade Exhibition

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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## Open the gates, but partially

ALL ECONOMIC and fiscal indicators confirm that Jordanian currency is firming against foreign currencies. This is good news that may not last too long should we, as now projected, open up the gates for imports of luxury items such as cars. It does not take much scrutiny to realise that increasing Jordanian imports would automatically increase the demands for hard currencies in which case the exchange rate of the dinar would naturally tumble, at least a few points. The issue, therefore, is how to reconcile so many objectives with varying degrees of importance.

For one thing, the country needs to consolidate the gains for the dinar that were painstakingly achieved. On the other hand, the government needs the revenues generated from imports, especially if custom duties could be increased even further. Thirdly, the Kingdom must replenish its stock of needed items such as cars, and it so happens that there are no alternatives to cars available on the domestic market. Maybe it is premature to think in terms of having an automobile assembly in Jordan to supply the requirements of the Middle East region, but it is not such a far-fetched futuristic idea either. But till that point in time arrives, there is no way that the transportation needs of the country can be met without relaxing the import regulations on cars. It will be recalled that our public transportation system leaves much to be desired. So it is of lesser evil to tolerate limited car imports by imposing a strict quota on all car importers than by banning them totally. The damage to the economy could be further decreased by increasing the custom duties on cars.

As for other items currently being considered as good candidates for relaxing the existing ban on their importation, some such as TV sets, can easily be dealt with in a balanced way by having, in the shortest possible time, a Jordanian assembly plant with a licence from a reputable foreign manufacturer of television sets. In these modern times, a television set must be viewed as a necessity and not a luxury item that can be totally banned. Cars and television sets offer two kinds of imports that require two different policies and their analogies are plentiful: A set of vital items that cannot be produced locally such as automobiles and another which can be manufactured or assembled locally, as we have successfully done with refrigerators, ovens and other household products. Only through such a comprehensive policy guidelines would the country be able to cope with seemingly irreconcilable objectives.

### JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian Arabie dailies on Wednesday came out with editorials on King Hussein's tour in the southern regions of the country and the enthusiastic welcome he received from the local population. Al Ra'i daily said that the delight of the people and their allegiance to the Hashemite throne were clearly manifested by the jubilation and the decorative signs and cheering of the crowds. The paper echoed the King's words that the southern city of Karak had always served as a fortress to the face of enemy plans and a shield providing protection to the Arab Nation. The citizens of Karak take pride in the visit which was a great event in their life, and they support the leader of the country whose wise policies steered the Kingdom safely through the various challenges and hardships, the paper noted. It said that the cohesion between leader and people and the determination by both sides to pursue the course of development and construction regardless of the difficulties, have enabled the country to attain so many achievements.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday criticised random attacks by members of the public against Jordanian businesses over the question of the contaminated raw fat discovered in sewage trucks. Fehed Al Faneh notes that not all businesses that employ fat in their products are involved in this scandal neither has the martial court determined the perpetrators of the type of products which employed the contaminated fat. The whole biscuit industry has come under indiscriminate attack by the public when only one factory could be involved, thus causing severe damage to all factories in Jordan, the writer adds. He says that importers of Jordanian biscuits and other fat-based products in the Gulf countries have now scrapped their contracts only because they have heard the unjustified public outcry. No one has the right to put about any rumours about Jordanian industries and no one has the right to accuse businesses of any misdeeds until the martial court has announced its decisions, the writer continues. He says that only the law should be considered as the judge in the case; and such damage to any business in the country should not be tolerated.

Al Dustour daily said that Karak was bedecked with decorations and its people were overwhelmed with joy over Tuesday's King Hussein's visit. The paper said that the people of the southern city must have felt deep pride in their leader who inherited the Great Arab Revolt in which Karak played a key role. The paper said that King Hussein seized the opportunity of the visit to renew his determination to work with his people in union, concert and determination for a greater future and a more prosperous nation. King Hussein paid tribute to Karak and praised its people for their continued role in national efforts, especially during the Great Arab Revolt, the paper added. It said that King Hussein's address to the people was a reaffirmation of the strong ties among the members of the same Jordanian family.

## Seize the moment

BOSTON — Secretary of State Baker is a political craftsman of uncommon toughness and skill, as the Democrats have learned to their regret.

In his new role he may prefer the statesman's aura. But he has a chance now at a diplomatic prize that requires his political instincts.

The prize is to get negotiations going between Israel and the Palestinians. Given the bitter history of their conflict, that may sound like a remote possibility; but in fact it is not.

The two sides have never been so close, so tantalisingly close, to a face-to-face negotiation. Prime Minister Shamir opened the way last April when he proposed that Israel negotiate interim arrangements for the occupied territories with representatives elected by Palestinians resident there.

It was a limited offer, with Shamir reiterating his position that Israel will not give up the West Bank and Gaza. But it still had real significance.

Until then no Israeli government had offered to negotiate with a Palestinian body. At most Israel had said that Palestinians could be members of a Jordanian or Egyptian delegation at peace talks. Now the Shamir government was in effect recognising that no one else can negotiate for the Palestinians.

The PLO, which Shamir had barred from an open part in his scheme, reacted cautiously to it. But eventually Chairman Arafat agreed to a proposal by President Mubarak of Egypt: That Palestinians not formally tied to the PLO negotiate with Israel about how to hold the election suggested by Shamir.

In the Mubarak plan lie the hopes and frustrations of this moment — and the challenge to Baker. It brings the two sides so close together that acceptance of it seems at hand. But the chance is very likely to be missed unless Baker plays a shrewd part.

President Mubarak tailored his proposal to make it sensitive to Israel. He did not call for a PLO role at this stage, or for a Palestinian state in the end. He did not even mention return to Israel's 1967 borders.

Yet Prime Minister Shamir has reacted with what can only be called scorn. He said the discussions proposed by President Mubarak were "talks of surrender." He called the idea "treif," not kosher.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a key Labour Party figure in the coalition government, went

to Cairo and endorsed the Mubarak proposal. But the reality is that nothing can happen unless Prime Minister Shamir is persuaded to go ahead.

President Mubarak understands that there is no way to go around Shamir. He telephoned the prime minister on Rosh Hashanah eve to wish him a happy new year — and express the hope once again that Israel and a Palestinian delegation would meet.

In short, everything is up to Shamir now. The situation holds a mirror up to his intentions. Was he serious when he offered to hold elections in the occupied territories and negotiate with the winners? Or was he just throwing something out to look good?

The challenge to Secretary Baker is to find a way of reaching the prime minister. What can he do? He can press for clear answers. He can make plain that the United States has a deep interest in seizing this moment of opportunity.

He can say: We are convinced that any differences over the Mubarak plan can easily be bridged if the parties have the will to agree. Do you?

Baker may be reluctant; he does not want to be seen as a man of politics now. But there is nothing wrong with an American leader using those skills in the Middle East. Henry Kissinger and Jimmy Carter used them to help produce some of the few breakthroughs there have been toward peace in the region. Let Baker be Baker.

There are hopeful omens underneath the tensions of the Palestinian uprising and Israel's attempt to repress it. Ehud Yaari, Israel television's highly respected correspondent on Arab affairs, made the point in an article just published by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"At least at the declarative level there has been significant movement on both sides," Yaari said. "Israel — despite its hope that elections will exclude the PLO from the peace process — has recognised the Palestinians as the partner for an immediate agreement, while the PLO has in fact recognised Israel."

"The PLO is backing away from its goal of eliminating Israel while Israel is reassessing its attempts to ignore Palestinian nationalism."

The time is right. The Shamir election proposal is right. But will Shamir take yes for an answer? — The New York Times.

## Sitting on hands

WENDELL Wilkie, the unsuccessful Republican candidate beaten by Roosevelt for his third term in 1940, went on to make an extensive tour of war-torn Europe, the Middle East and Asia, and to write a book called One World which had a wide sale and brought its author international renown. This was at a time when hope seemed the best antidote to the miseries and destruction of war, when in Britain Beverage was going to make things all right at home and when the writing of the United Nations Charter implied that in the future the nations really were going to be united.

It didn't work out like that, of course, but at least in one sense it remains "one world" — that is in the sense that whatever happens in one part of it has repercussions pretty well anywhere else. This year, 1989, has demonstrated this perhaps more than has any other year since 1945 — it has seen continuing perestroika in the USSR, the first non-Communist government in Poland, and most recently thousands of East Germans fleeing their country to the West with the active connivance of one of East Germany's allies in the Warsaw Pact, Hungary. Nor is it only in Europe that the political seismograph has been registering quite considerable movement.

But there is another side to the coin. Nineteen-eighty-nine was also the year of suppression in China. There are still plenty of awful regimes around. In Lebanon and Sri Lanka and elsewhere the bloodletting goes on unabated. And there are threats that the advances which have been made may be undone. Gorbachev has given yet another public warning of the strength of opposition to his policies from left and right.

It is in fact an almost Manichaean world, in which the forces of light and the forces of darkness seem locked in a global struggle, and where victory or defeat for either give encouragement to those thinking along similar lines elsewhere. So where in this picture is the Arab-Israeli question located? Certainly it seems to have been unaffected by the winds of change which are shaking so many other long-established positions. Though there has now been a sudden flurry of diplomatic activity, with Israel's defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, flying to talk with Egypt's President Mubarak, for months the Israeli government is doing what it likes best to do and what, it must be acknowledged, it is very good at — playing for time. The intifada is running out of steam, it claims; the Americans are running out of interest (when John Major, the new British foreign secretary, had his first meeting with his American counterpart, they apparently spent more time talking about the import of Hollywood films to Europe than about the Middle East). So why need Israel do more than shoot, imprison and deport a few more Palestinians?

Such an attitude is likely to prove extremely short-sighted. This has become a world of change, as Arabs as well as Israelis have got to realise. Sitting on hands is as fatal a policy as trying to sit on bayonets. The voices acknowledging this must be heeded. One of them can be heard in two closely reasoned articles in London's Catholic weekly, The Tablet, by Marc Ellis, entitled "An appeal to my fellow Jews". He concluded with these words:

It is the normal state of affairs for Jews to be in the Middle East and indeed in Palestine, as it is for the Jewish community in Palestine to be dependent on diaspora communities for financial and logical support. What is abnormal is the power emanating from that community and its displacement of others... Jewish Israelis need not be foreign for ever, and cannot be if they are to survive and flourish in the Middle East. Though the situation most often appears intractable, the historic compromise the Palestinians offer today of legitimacy and a two-state solution is one which confronts the deepest intuitions of the Jewish people as a way out, or better yet, a way home. The path is a long one even as the urgency beckons us. We are very nearly too late.

The above is an editorial that appeared in the Sept. 22 issue of the London-based Middle East International.

## German refugee influx stirs emotions

By Tom Heneghan  
Reuters

BONN — East German refugees have stirred deep emotions in West Germany and perplexed its politicians.

The sight of young people arriving in a country they have never seen, chanting "freedom" and "we're coming home" has struck a chord with the common identity Germans have kept alive during 40 years of division.

But West German politicians, clearly taken by surprise by the wave of pan-German patriotism, are divided about what the exodus means for Bonn's relations with East Berlin.

Apart from the inventive Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Bonn's veteran foreign minister, most are at a loss over how to turn these emotions into votes in the next year's general elections 15 months away.

The new patriotism should play an important role in the elections because of the threat the far-right Republicans pose to both main parties.

The Republicans, whose beer-hall nationalism has revived long-ignored issues such as German reunification, have stolen enough

votes from the ruling Christian Democrats (CDU) and the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) to spoil any coalition either could hope to lead after the general elections.

"Most politicians have been overwhelmed by the refugees and can only react with a firefighting reflex," one Western diplomat observed. "They have not thought through what this means for relations with East Germany."

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's CDU, facing a serious challenge from the Republicans, fought a local election campaign in the country's most populous state last weekend with the argument that it represented the freedom sought by almost 30,000 refugees that have come to West Germany in the past month.

The CDU vote in North Rhine-Westphalia, which has one-third of the whole West German electorate, slipped to 38 per cent from 42 per cent in 1984.

It was the CDU's fourth electoral setback this year and a warning signal for the general elections.

The CDU and its Bavarian wing, the Christian Social Union (CSU), have split into several

factions over policy towards East Germany and the "German question," a concept referring to the postwar division of Germany.

Most say German reunification is closer than ever but do not spell out how it could be achieved.

CSU leader Theo Waigel, Bonn's finance minister, questions whether former German lands now in Poland actually belong to Warsaw. He says the German Reich still legally exists in its 1937 borders because there has been no post-war peace treaty.

Kohl says the German question has become an international issue which the Western allies — Britain, France and the United States — should review urgently. But he has not said what he wants them to do.

"This is a classic piece of buck-passing," said an envoy from one allied country. "We are still waiting for his suggestions."

The SPD stayed on top in the North Rhine-Westphalia vote thanks to its solid trade union base but party strategists in Bonn are still smarting from some of the charges CDU campaigners used against them.

The most serious was that the SPD, which launched Bonn's de-

tente with Eastern Europe while in power, had discredited itself by holding regular meetings with the same East Berlin hardliners whom the refugees were fleeing.

"That was a really low blow," one SPD strategist said. "You can only achieve improvements for people in East Germany by talking to the party leaders."

The government knows that and they do it too. But now it's unpopular so they are trying to make political capital."

The charge has also split the SPD, with some urging the party to cut off contact with East Berlin and the majority saying it must continue to meet the Communists to urge them to introduce reforms.

Genscher, who flew to Prague or Saturday to make a dramatic announcement to about 3,500 East Germans camped at Bonn's embassy there that they could leave for the West, has emerged as the only clear winner.

His personal standing has soared, pulling in more votes for his Free Democratic party — Kohl's coalition partner — and congratulations from Social Democrats who hope to win his party over to a new centre-left coalition next year.

By William Kazer  
Reuters

PEKING — China on Tuesday told its one billion people to study a speech by Jiang Zemin and foreign diplomats said this was aimed at building up the prestige of the newly installed Communist party chief.

Major newspapers published a notice from the party propaganda department, urging mass study of his "important speech" televised nationally last week ahead of Sunday's anniversary of 40 years of Communist rule.

"We must use (the speech) to reach uniform understanding, take uniform action and together strive for the final victory," the People's Daily said in a front-page report.

"To recognise and comprehend the spirit of this important speech, party committees at all levels are called on to set aside time to earnestly study, discuss

## China tries to build up Communist chief Jiang

and understand the real contents of this address," the newspaper said.

In his headline speech on Friday, his first major address since he rocketed to the top party post in June to replace ousted reform leader Zhao Ziyang, he praised the party for the suppression of a counter-revolution and said Socialism would eventually replace capitalism worldwide.

He also said China would maintain its open policies but be lashed out at Western countries for economic sanctions.

"This is significant," said a

Western diplomat. "It is part of the campaign to build up Jiang Zemin."

"It is aimed at enhancing his prestige and we are likely to see more of this," another foreign envoy commented.

Chinese across the country spent much of this summer reading and re-reading an "important speech" of senior leader Deng Xiaoping explaining the party's interpretation of the bloody suppression of a pro-democracy campaign in June.

According to that assessment, which is shared by the new party

leader, the campaign was a counter-revolution that had to be crushed.

The 85-year-old Deng, whose health has been the subject of frequent speculation, has referred to Jiang as the core of the party. Diplomats said this was to strengthen Jiang's position against rivals such as hardline President Yang Shangkun and Premier Li Peng.

Premier Li has already echoed that line.

"Jiang Zemin has rich experience in political and economic work," the official New China news agency quoted him as saying on Monday. "We support him as the core of our leadership."

Jiang, 63, is a former mayor of Shanghai where he was known for his firm policies against dissent. That helped propel him to the post of party chief after Zhao was accused of supporting pro-democracy protests and splitting the party.

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SEPT / SEPT

**LES DEPUTES LIBANAIS** ont entamé lundi à Taef en Arabie Saoudite un difficile débat sur le rééquilibrage du pouvoir politique en faveur des musulmans. D'autant plus difficile que se sont multipliées les menaces et les pressions à leur encontre. Le Hezbollah pro-iranien, notamment, a mis en garde les 62 parlementaires (31 musulmans et 31 chrétiens) contre l'adoption du plan politique proposé par le triumvirat. En voyage à Téhéran, le chef du mouvement chiite Amal (pro-syrien), Nabih Berri, a pour sa part déclaré que le plan en question «ne répond pas aux aspirations des musulmans libanais et donne l'avantage aux privilèges confessionnels». A l'opposé, le chef de la diplomatie saoudienne, le prince Saoud al-Fayçal, a estimé dès dimanche que «des espoirs des Libanais, des Arabes et de la communauté internationale font que l'échec est interdit». Pris en tenailles, les députés du pays du Cèdre se sont pourtant mis au travail en formant un «comité» chargé d'étudier point par point le «document d'entente nationale». Ainsi ont-ils entrepris lundi une discussion à huis clos sur une nouvelle définition des prérogatives du président de la République, chrétien maronite par tradition. Avant hier, de nombreux observateurs estimaient même qu'un accord était sur le point de voir le jour sur une composition du Parlement à parts égales entre les deux confessions. Le consensus risque cependant d'être difficile à obtenir tant qu'aucune «garantie satisfaisante» ne sera donnée aux milices favorables au général Aoun quant à un retrait des quelque 30.000 soldats syriens présents sur le territoire libanais. Une garantie que l'Algérie indiquait en début de semaine avoir déjà fournie aux responsables des deux gouvernements rivaux à Beyrouth. Isolés du reste du monde, les parlementaires réunis à Taef se disent, eux, prêts à l'entente. Même si l'un d'entre eux déclarait lundi y être «condamné» par les pressions internationales. «Le compromis entre députés est d'ailleurs possible, soulignait-il. Mais aucun d'entre nous n'oublie qu'il faudra rendre des comptes à notre retour à Beyrouth, et alors, qui nous protégera?» (avec agences).

## EN BREF

**Heure d'hiver.** La Jordanie reviendra à l'heure d'hiver dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi prochains. Le 7 octobre à 00h, les montres devront donc être retardées d'une heure. La Syrie, l'Egypte et l'Irak sont repassés à l'heure d'hiver dimanche dernier.

**Connexion.** La Jordanie et l'Egypte ont approuvé un projet de raccordement de leurs réseaux d'électricité, estimé à 170 millions de dollars. Un appel d'offres international sera lancé aux compagnies étrangères au début de l'année prochaine, a annoncé le directeur de l'Office de l'électricité jordanienne. Mohammed Arafat a ajouté que les travaux devraient commencer fin 1990 et s'achever fin 1993.

**Huile frelatée.** Le procès de 113 personnes, impliquées dans le trafic d'huile frelatée découvert en septembre en Jordanie, s'est ouvert samedi devant le tribunal militaire d'Amman, en vertu de la loi martiale en vigueur depuis 1967 dans le royaume. Selon le directeur des enquêtes criminelles à la Sécurité générale, tous les accusés ont participé à l'importation clandestine d'huile végétale non raffinée, destinée à la fabrication de savon, pour la vendre comme graisse alimentaire. Des commerçants ainsi que 30 propriétaires et chauffeurs de camions figurent parmi les accusés.

**Don.** La Communauté économique européenne a octroyé samedi un don de près de 2,2 millions de dollars à la Jordanie. Une enveloppe qui doit servir au financement de l'étude d'un projet de construction de deux barrages hydroélectriques dans le bassin de Mujib, au sud-est de la vallée du Jourdain.

**Réfugiés.** Le nombre des ressortissants est-allemands réfugiés à l'ambassade d'Allemagne de l'Ouest à Prague a été estimé estimé mercredi à 5.000 personnes, après le retrait lundi des policiers tchécoslovaques qui empêchaient l'accès aux bâtiments diplomatiques. Selon certains observateurs, Berlin-Est serait sur le point d'accepter leur passage en RFA via le territoire de la république démocratique allemande.

**Dialogue.** Américains et Soviétiques ont repris lundi à Genève leurs négociations sur les essais nucléaires. Un cinquième tête-à-tête que les deux superpuissances pensent voir déboucher sur un accord de vérification réciproque avant le premier sommet Gorbatchev-Bush du printemps ou de l'été prochains.

**Tout augmente.** Eurotunnel, consortium franco-britannique chargé de la construction du tunnel sous la Manche, a annoncé lundi une forte augmentation du coût de construction de l'ouvrage, porté à plus de 11,3 milliards de dollars. En deux ans, l'estimation du prix des travaux a grimpé de plus de 43%.

**Armement.** Le secrétaire d'Etat américain a confirmé cette semaine la vente prochaine par Washington de plus de 300 chars M-1 à l'Arabie Saoudite. Le contrat pourrait se chiffrer à un milliard de dollars.

**Pauvreté.** 45% des enfants noirs américains vivent dans des familles dont les revenus sont inférieurs au seuil de pauvreté, selon une étude du Congrès publiée lundi à Washington. Le rapport indique par ailleurs que le taux de natalité au sein des minorités noire et hispanique aux Etats-Unis reste nettement supérieur à celui de la population blanche et qu'un enfant sur trois naît en 2010 dans ces communautés.

**Eurekâ audiovisuel.** Les 26 pays présents aux assises européennes de l'audiovisuel ont formellement lancé lundi à Paris un programme «Eurekâ audiovisuel», visant à favoriser l'émergence d'une véritable «Europe de la télévision» dans les domaines culturel et technologique. Les Etats signataires de l'accord de principe, dont l'URSS, la Hongrie, la Pologne et la Yougoslavie, ont décidé de créer un «comité des coordinateurs Eurekâ» chargé d'élaborer des projets communs.

**France-Irak.** Bagdad a versé à la France une première échéance de 58 millions de dollars dans le cadre de l'accord de rééchelonnement de la dette irakienne, signé le mois dernier entre les deux pays. Cet accord, qui ouvre la voie à la normalisation des relations commerciales franco-irakiennes, porte sur 8,5 milliards de francs.

**Pohér réélu.** Alain Pohér a été réélu mardi président du Sénat français au 3e tour de scrutin par 127 voix contre 111 à Pierre-Christian Taittinger (Centre-droit) et 79 à Claude Estier (Parti socialiste). Soutenu par le RPR (droite conservatrice), M. Pohér entame son 8e mandat à la tête du Sénat.

**Mammouths.** Un spéléologue français a annoncé mardi avoir découvert un «important» sanctuaire de pachydermes, «appartenant des mammouths», dans un grotte du massif des Vosges (est de la France). Le gisement, de 25 mètres de longueur, se trouve à 56 mètres de profondeur et comprend de très nombreux ossements en bon état, vieux de 10.000 à 20.000 ans, posés à même le sol.

**Cherche Bouddha.** Le metteur en scène italien Bernardo Bertolucci recherche actuellement un acteur, professionnel ou non, pour incarner Bouddha dans une superproduction américaine, dont le tournage débutera en Inde l'année prochaine. La copie du philosophe oriental devra de préférence être de type eurasien, parler anglais, plaire à tous les publics du monde et avoir entre 20 et 30 ans.

**Prix UNESCO.** Le musicien irakien Mounir Bachir, 64 ans, et la fédération internationale des jeunes musiciens, fondée en 1939, ont conjointement reçu le prix UNESCO-Conseil international de la musique 1989. Cette distinction, instituée en 1975, récompense des personnalités ou des institutions ou de la fin pour leur œuvre musicale et pour leur rôle dans le rapprochement des peuples.

Entretien avec Christophe Dupont de Médecins sans Frontières

## «Un comportement français»

De passage à Amman, le responsable de la logistique de Médecins sans Frontières a présenté

l'association humanitaire internationale lundi soir au centre culturel français. Un propos illustré par deux films vidéo sur les moyens de l'intervention d'urgence et sur l'action de MSF en Arménie, après le tremblement de terre de décembre 1988. Permanent de l'organisation depuis 7 ans, Christophe Dupont a expliqué au «Jourdain» le travail et les raisons du développement de l'activité de MSF depuis sa création en 1971.

Le Jourdain: Sur quels principes repose l'existence de Médecins sans Frontières?

Christophe Dupont: MSF a été créée pendant la guerre du Biafra au Niger. Un conflit terrible au cours duquel se sont posés d'énormes problèmes d'aide médicale d'urgence et d'assistance aux réfugiés, qui fondent l'action de notre association. Sans oublier le rôle de témoignage des situations rencontrées. La défense des droits de l'homme fait également partie de nos devoirs. Tout comme la formation, dans les missions de longue durée. Nos équipes sont chargées de former les médecins et les infirmiers locaux sur le matériel que nous apportons et que nous laissons une fois notre rôle terminé.

L. J.: Comment MSF s'est-elle hissée en 18 ans au rang de première organisation mondiale médicale humanitaire?

C. D.: Plusieurs phénomènes se

sont combinés. Il y a d'abord eu l'état d'esprit de mai 1968. A l'époque, les Français étaient prêts à se mobiliser pour les grandes causes et à partir à l'aventure. Par ailleurs, l'envie, la façon d'intervenir et aussi de répartir, une fois la mission accomplie, est à mon avis un comportement typiquement français, typiquement judéo-chrétien, qu'on ne retrouve ni en Grande-Bretagne, ni aux Etats-Unis par exemple. La reconnaissance de MSF par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé et sa collaboration depuis 1979 avec le Haut Commissariat aux réfugiés des Nations Unies ont également contribué à donner à l'association une assise internationale.

L. J.: Le drame éthiopien, révélateur au monde en 1984, a-t-il également joué un rôle?

C. D.: Il est vrai que les appels internationaux qui ont alors été lancés ont décuplé les budgets des organisations non gouvernementales. Mais c'est surtout à



Christophe Dupont: «Le recrutement de volontaires constituera l'un de nos problèmes cruciaux dans les années à venir».

ses efforts de structuration et à sa reconnaissance internationale que MSF doit d'avoir pu passer d'un budget de 10 millions de francs (environ 1 million de dollars) en 1982 à près de 200 millions de francs cette année.

L. J.: La médiatisation récente des causes humanitaires en France vous a-t-elle donné un coup de pouce?

C. D.: La mode humanitaire, qui s'est emparée de la France et d'une bonne partie de l'Europe, a peut-être amené de nouveaux donateurs à MSF. Mais si nous sommes devenus une référence, nous le devons surtout à notre section de marketing et de relations publiques, qui fonctionne très bien.

L. J.: La création l'an dernier d'un secrétariat d'Etat à l'action humanitaire vous paraît-elle une bonne chose?

C. D.: C'est un bico en soi. Il m'est cependant difficile de dire

qu'une telle structure soit bénéfique à MSF. Pour trouver d'urgence un avion gratuit, des médicaments, des médecins... l'efficacité et le savoir faire de l'organisation constituent son atout majeur. De plus, je ne crois pas que l'aide humanitaire puisse être un concept gouvernemental. Par contre, la reconnaissance de MSF comme association d'utilité publique en 1985 a représenté un progrès important. Elle a accru les exonérations fiscales des dons, qui constituent plus de 70% de nos fonds.

L. J.: Vous avez été l'une des premières organisations internationales à intervenir en Arménie après le tremblement de terre de décembre 1988. Comment cela a-t-il été possible?

C. D.: L'Arménie est la plus importante mission d'urgence que nous ayons menée depuis 1971. En une semaine, nous avons affecté 7 avions, et envoyé 100 volontaires en un mois. Là encore, c'est l'expérience qui a

été primordiale. Je me souviens avoir appris la nouvelle un matin à 9h30. On m'a demandé un avion pour le soir. J'en avais deux sous la main à midi. L'un de nos principaux atouts réside dans les «kits» que nous avons mis en place depuis plusieurs années. Ils s'agit de programmes médicaux pré-établis, composés de matériel, de médicaments, de volontaires, élaborés à Paris et adaptés à différents types de catastrophes. Ça va des citernes gonflables d'eau potable au carburant des véhicules MSF en passant par le recrutement de personnel parlant une langue utilisée dans le pays sinistré. Nous fournissons toujours de la nourriture et des moyens de communication à nos équipes pour qu'elles soient indépendantes. Ce qu'oublie parfois les autres organisations et qui nous permet d'être opérationnels en 24 heures dans le monde entier.

L. J.: Vous arrive-t-il malgré tout de connaître des échecs?

C. D.: Ils sont heureusement rares. Mais nous avons dû très récemment renoncer à une mission en Equateur, le gouvernement n'ayant pas tenu ses promesses. Au Malawi, il a fallu négocier pendant plusieurs mois avec les autorités, alors que des centaines de milliers de réfugiés mozambicains avaient besoin d'une aide urgente.

L. J.: Des volontaires sont-ils morts en mission?

C. D.: En 18 ans, aucun bénévole de MSF n'est mort à cause de son travail. Mais les accidents existent. Au Mozambique, un médecin a sauté sur une mine. Un autre s'est fait tirer dessus en Ouganda. Nous devons parfois procéder à des rapatriements

sanitaires. Trop souvent d'ailleurs.

L. J.: Les détournements d'aide humanitaire ne ouïssent-ils pas à votre actif?

C. D.: L'un des principes fondamentaux de MSF est de suivre de bout en bout le déroulement de ses missions. Quand nous avons envoyé 20 tonnes de médicaments au Liban en avril dernier, j'ai moi-même vérifié leur acheminement de l'usine à l'avion. Nous avons quelquefois dans l'appareil et des correspondants dans les deux secteurs de Beyrouth pour assurer la livraison. 15 volontaires sont partis avec 25 tonnes de médicaments en Chine, après la répression de juin. Nous avons rapatrié 17 tonnes, pour autant acheminées jusqu'à Pékin, faute de pouvoir contrôler la distribution jusqu'au bout.

L. J.: Quel est, en 1989, le principal problème auquel vous avez à faire face?

C. D.: N'étant pas chargé des finances de MSF, je dirais que le recrutement de volontaires constitue l'un de nos problèmes cruciaux dans les années à venir. Nous avons une centaine de missions dans une trentaine de pays et il est de plus en plus difficile de trouver des bénévoles disponibles. La mentalité française est en train de changer. Désormais, les médecins exigent une assurance personnelle et se préoccupent de leur salaire et de leur retraite.

Propos recueillis par Alain Renon.

Le français à l'université de Jordanie

## Une majeure en mal de croissance

L'université de Jordanie, qui a ouvert ses portes en 1962, compte beaucoup de départements. Le français s'y est glissé parmi les langues étrangères dès le début des années 1970, avec le statut de «mineure», tout comme l'allemand. Matière complémentaire enseignée au rythme de 27 heures hebdomadaires, elle venait en complément des études d'anglais, de droit islamique, d'éducation...

Venait, car devant le succès de la mineure, les responsables des cours ont entrepris une enquête sur l'opportunité d'élever les langues modernes au rang de majeure, autrement dit de créer des sections spécialisées. Proposée au Conseil de l'université, l'idée est devenue réalité. En 1987, un département de langues modernes ouvrait ses portes. Au deuxième semestre de 1988, la section française fonctionnait. Si une centaine d'étudiants suivent des cours de français optionnels, la première promotion de la majeure ne comprend quant à elle qu'une quinzaine d'étudiants. «Il sont d'un assez bon niveau», souligne Pierre Banizette, lecteur à l'université.

Quelques uns éprouvent cependant de sérieuses difficultés, dues à leur ignorance totale de la langue. Ce qui leur demande un gros effort.

«Ce manque de pratique s'explique d'abord par la situation du français dans les écoles primaires et secondaires. Proposé comme deuxième langue étrangère dans certains établissements privés, il reste la plupart du temps facultatif. Nombreux sont ceux qui estiment en effet que la langue de Voltaire n'est pas encore «mûre» pour la Jordanie, où l'anglais demeure primordial.

Certains étudiants mettent également en cause la qualité de l'enseignement avant la faculté. «Nos professeurs ont très peu mis l'accent sur la langue parlée, explique l'un d'eux. Ils insistent sur l'orthographe, le par cœur, sans plus. A la faculté, on nous laisse le temps de nous exprimer, de connaître et de pratiquer.» Destiné à l'apprentissage du français en tant que tel, le département universitaire propose tout autant des cours de civilisation, que de littérature ou de linguistique. «Au dernier semestre de leur quatrième année, les étudiants se verront proposer des options de français spécialisées dans le droit, les relations internationales, le com-

merce...», précise Pierre Banizette. Objectif: offrir, tant que faire se peut, des perspectives de carrière dans les affaires étrangères, le tourisme...

Pour y parvenir, la section française dispose de deux professeurs, épaulés par trois intervenants vacataires. Une petite équipe, qui dispose d'une modeste bibliothèque composée de livres pédagogiques pour les enseignants, de documents et, depuis peu de romans, pour les étudiants. De son côté, le gouvernement français propose plusieurs formes de bourses, depuis les séjours linguistiques de deux semaines jusqu'aux cursus annuels en France.

Armé pour promouvoir le français en Jordanie, le département de langues modernes souffre pourtant d'un mal de croissance. La crise économique et financière a notamment conduit l'université à geler l'enseignement du français et à refuser cette année toutes les nouvelles demandes d'inscriptions. En attendant une éventuelle relance, les professeurs de la section poursuivent l'«aventure» avec leur première et unique promotion, dont les études prendront fin en 1991.

Sonia Qatani

Cinéma

## Semaine du film yougoslave

Depuis lundi, le cinéma yougoslave occupe l'écran du centre culturel royal d'Amman. Six films figurent au programme de cette première en Jordanie.

«Nous voulons faire connaître au public jordanien de nouveaux aspects de la vie dans notre pays». Initiateur de la semaine du cinéma yougoslave, l'ambassadeur de Belgrade à Amman, Zoran Popovic a choisi le septième art pour présenter un Etat méditerranéen dont plusieurs milliers de ressortissants vivent aujourd'hui dans le royaume hachémite.

Première du genre entre les deux pays, cette manifestation offre l'occasion aux cinéphiles de

découvrir le jeune cinéma yougoslave, avec notamment la projection de «Papa est en voyage d'affaires» d'Emir Kusturica, primé au festival de Cannes en 1985.

Six longs-métrages, sous-titrés en arabe ou en anglais, figurent au programme de la semaine, qui s'est ouverte lundi soir. Certains d'entre eux pourraient d'ailleurs être prochainement diffusés par la JTV. Des pourparlers sont en effet actuellement en cours entre les télévisions nationales des deux pays.

Semaine du cinéma yougoslave, jusqu'au samedi 7 octobre. Séances quotidiennes à 20h00 au centre culturel royal (tél: 669029). Entrée libre.

Au profit des orphelins

## Le bazar de de Reine mère

Patronné par la Reine mère et organisé pour venir en aide aux orphelins, la plus grande vente de charité de l'année se tiendra dimanche prochain à la cité des sports d'Amman.

La fondation al-Husseini pour les orphelins de Jordanie, créée par la Reine mère, organise dimanche sa vente de charité annuelle. Un bazar coloré sans équivalent dans le royaume, auquel participent traditionnellement un grand nombre d'ambassades.

Les profits réalisés à l'occasion de cette vente seront remis sous forme de chèques à la fondation, le soir même, au cours d'une cérémonie officielle.

Dimanche 8 octobre de 10h00 à 17h00, au Palais de la Culture de la cité sportive d'Amman. Entrée: 2 dinars.

Les visiteurs auront le choix

Travail au noir

## 70.000 clandestins en Jordanie

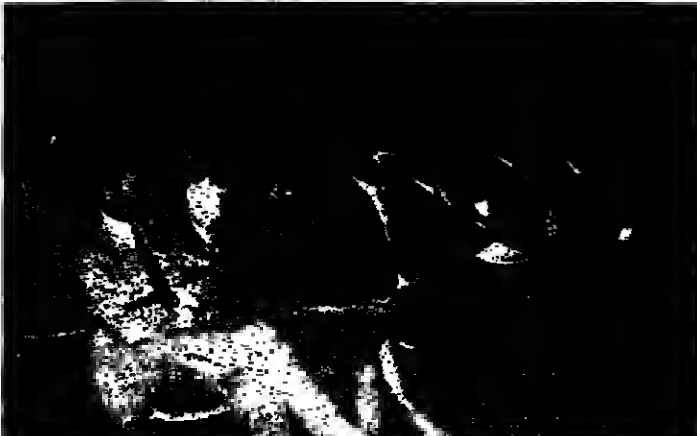
Soixante-dix mille immigrés au moins sont employés au noir en Jordanie a indiqué le week-end dernier le ministre du Travail. Selou Jamal Bdour, ils sont aussi nombreux que les ressortissants étrangers titulaires d'un permis de travail en règle.

Interrogé par le quotidien arabe «Al Dustour», M. Bdour a annoncé que les inspections et les contrôles de routine dans les entreprises allaient être renforcés pour tenter d'endiguer le phénomène, qui, a-t-il ajouté, prive d'emploi nombre de Jordaniens.

Reconnaissant que le marché du travail est saturé, notamment par le retour annuel de quelque 5.000 émigrés nationaux, Jamal Bdour a estimé que la réservation des postes administratifs, d'ingénieurs et de personnels médicaux aux Jordaniens ne pouvait suffire à réduire le taux de chômage. Le ministre a invité les services publics à encourager les jeunes diplômés à suivre une formation professionnelle dans le pays.

Canal France International

## Du nouveau pour la JTV



Quatre heures de programmes quotidiens en langue française; des films, des jeux, des magazines et de l'information figurent au menu de Canal France International (CFI), présenté lundi soir au centre culturel français d'Amman. En présence du ministre de l'Information, Nassouh Majali, du directeur général de la radio-télévision nationale, Radi al-Khas, du directeur de la JTV, Mohammed Amin et du conseiller régional de l'UNESCO pour la communication dans les Etats arabes, Adnan Salem, l'ambassadeur de France, Denis Bauchard a estimé que de tels temps [étaient] peut-être vus d'enrichir la coopération franco-jordanienne, notamment avec la JTV, «partenaire majeur». Un enrichissement dont CFI représentera sans doute l'un des vecteurs importants comme devait ensuite le souligner le responsable audiovisuel régional, Gérard Blondel. «Canal France est une banque de programmes télévisés gratuits que la JTV utilisera comme bon lui semble. Elle représentera trois fois plus d'heures de diffusion que ce que la Jordanie reçoit aujourd'hui de la France», a-t-il notamment souligné. Autre intérêt, technique celui-là: CFI, qui diffuse par le satellite Intelsat V, permettra de supprimer les envois de cassettes, beaucoup plus fastidieux, et de programmer les émissions ou les films deux jours seulement après leur diffusion dans l'Hexagone. L'équipement, nécessaire à la réception des émissions de CFI est d'ores et déjà à Aqaba. Reste à l'installer à Amman. «Les premiers tests devraient pouvoir être effectués au cours du mois de novembre», estime le directeur de la JTV, Mohammed Amin.

A.R.

## Mots croisés

par Florent Montiel

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.  
1: elles s'embarquent. 2: petites arêtes; démonstratif. 3: adjectif possessif. 4: elles sont pleines de gens; sa fille est restée célèbre. 5: une fois; officier nazi. 6: diffuser. 7: leurs; longue période. 8: peut réussir; actrices. 9: respect. 10: coupée; de l'Estonie.

Verticalement.  
A: enseignant. B: préposition; sud de la France. C: pronom; chemins vers les toilettes. D: skieuse. E: verbe arabe; possédée; règle. F: personnes; unité de mesure chinoise. G: intérieur en grec; note; essence. H: Travaux Publics; songes. I: piétinèrent. J: possessif; de l'Estonie.

(Solution en bas de page)

## A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Cocoon, de Ron Howard, avec Don Ameche, Willard Brimley, Hume Cronyn et Maureen Stapleton. La découverte par trois hommes d'âge mûr d'une piscine abandonnée remplie d'oeufs géants. Un simple bain a pour effet de les rejuvenir. Quand ils décident d'y retourner, ils se retrouvent nez à nez avec d'étranges créatures...

Centre américain, jeudi 5 octobre à 19h00 (en anglais).

Metin, film vidéo pour les enfants. Metin, jeune immigré turc de 6 ans, vit avec sa famille à Berlin-Ouest et découvre avec son amie allemande, Anne, les difficultés relations entre les deux communautés.

Moonswalkers. Voyage au coeur de l'univers de Michael Jackson et de 24 années de succès...

Ciné-club. Séances respectivement à 14h00, 16h00, 18h00, 20h00 et 22h00. Le monde arabe dans le cinéma occidental. Lundi à 20h00, nouveaux films réservés aux membres du club; jeudi à 16h00, projections pour les jeunes.

Jeudi 5: Harlem; Indiana Jones and the last crusade; Scar; Harlem holiday; The guns and the fury.

night; Fort Sagne; King Solomon's mines (1re version). Samedi 7: Arabian adventure; She or Alch; King Solomon's mines (2); Thief of Baghdad (1); Khartoum. Dimanche 8: King Solomon's mines (3); Thief of Baghdad (2); Gully Bolly; Tigris of the desert; Wanted dead or alive. Lundi 9: Le 7e voyage de Sinbad; Lawrence of Arabia; Amman; Teacher; Al Cal. Mardi 10: The fury; To the devil's daughter; Sinbad and the eye of the tiger; Paton (1); Oubliés.

## EXPOSITION

Regards multiples, 39 lithographies de Picasso, Miro, Braque, Chagall, Cocteau, Le Corbusier, constituent le Legs Sorlier, panorama de la peinture contemporaine. Centre culturel royal, du 9 au 12 octobre (vernissage lundi à 18h00).

## TELEVISION

Le Jardin d'Epouxine pièce réalisée pour la télé par Michel Boironard, avec Denise Grey et Maria Padoue. Comédie au caractère véhément. Epouxine reçoit la visite de trois étranges messagers qui lui annoncent sa fin prochaine...

## Solution des mots croisés

Horizontalement.  
1: passagères. 2: ruelles; ci. 3: notre. 4: foules; Pan. 5: écrou; SS. 6: émettre. 7: sites; être. 8: rû; laves. 9: estimant. 10: rasée; este.

Verticalement.  
A: professeur. B: au; Ou. C: se; urbes. D: salomoneuse. E: ah; eue; té. F: gens; il. GP: co; ut; éme. H: TP; réves. I: étreobrent. J: sines; este.



# Support for OPEC may reinforce oil price rises

**TOKYO (R)** — Oil producers outside OPEC could reinforce the recent uptrend in crude prices if they decide this week to curb exports in support of OPEC policies, oil experts have said.

But if prices in the meantime turn downwards, export cuts from nations not belonging to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)—such as Mexico, Oman, Egypt and Malaysia would be too negligible to stem their fall, they added.

"If the market is still on the rise, it will rise further on such news," one Japanese oil trader said. "But if the market is in the process of a correction, it will not have any effect."

Representatives from about a dozen of the non-OPEC oil producing countries will attend a two-day meeting on Oct. 5-6 in Kuala Lumpur, the OPEC News Agency (OPECNA) said.

OPECNA said the talks would also be attended by OPEC's Secretary-General Nabors, who will brief the informal non-OPEC group on the outcome of last week's OPEC ministerial monitoring committee meeting.

Oil prices have jumped more than 50 cents a barrel since last Wednesday when OPEC ministers decided the group's output should be limited to 20.5 million barrels per day (b/d) in the fourth quarter in order to put a floor under prices.

Although output violations are expected to push actual OPEC production some two million b/d over its self-imposed fourth quarter ceiling, most traders expect strong demand will easily soak up the additional barrels.

The U.S. benchmark crude, West Texas Intermediate, is currently quoted at just over \$20 for November delivery.

Following a meeting in May, non-OPEC countries pledged exports curbs amounting to some 300,000 b/d in the second quarter of the year in support of OPEC's efforts to boost prices.

Non-OPEC nations did not call a formal meeting to discuss third

quarter export levels but a Mexican energy ministry spokesman said in June that the group would maintain the limits agreed for the second quarter.

However little evidence of any voluntary cuts has materialised over the last few months.

"I don't know whether they really cut, I didn't see the figures going down," Indonesian Oil Minister Gimanjar Kartasamita told Reuters recently.

"But we feel our cooperation with them is important. We're happy they're taking the initiative among themselves to have a dialogue," he said.

Any significant drop in non-OPEC exports this year can be mostly attributed to involuntary factors such as strikes in the Soviet Union, accidents in the North Sea and surging domestic demand in China, oil sources said.

OPECNA said the Oct. 5-6 talks would group Malaysia, Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Mexico, Norway, Oman, the Soviet Union and North Yemen, in addition to the Canadian province of Alberta and U.S.

states Texas and Alaska.

Meanwhile, Oman's Petroleum and Minerals Minister Said bin Ahmad Al Shanfari said independent oil producers would continue to cooperate with OPEC to keep oil prices stable, regardless of the group's current surplus output.

"Non-OPEC countries shall continue cooperating with OPEC regardless of OPEC's surplus output," Shanfari said in written answers to questions from Reuters.

Oman, which produces around 600,000 b/d of crude, is de-facto leader of the non-OPEC group and aims to keep oil prices high as it lacks the large oil reserves of its Arabian Peninsula neighbours, oil industry sources said.

Shanfari said non-OPEC countries felt it was in their interest to cooperate with the 13-nation group by shouldering their responsibilities in restraining their output, "because oil markets need this cooperation among producers."

The Omani minister said oil prices would remain stable if OPEC produced no more than

market demand for its oil, which he estimated at around 22 million b/d, in the fourth quarter.

"I feel the current market prices confirm this view," Shanfari said. The Middle East benchmark Dubai Crude was on sale in London Wednesday for \$16.10 per barrel, more than \$2 higher than last year's average.

OPEC output in September was estimated around 22.45 million b/d in a Reuters survey, mainly due to excess production by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Shanfari said opportunities for cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC producers looked quite promising for the future. "I wish here to make it clear that the non-OPEC group tries to avoid confrontation with OPEC or any other bodies, and concentrate on finding ways of cooperation to stabilise oil markets," Shanfari said.

The Omani minister said OPEC/non-OPEC cooperation should be expanded and broadened to include consumers.

"The possibilities of widening the scope of the OPEC/non-

OPEC cooperation deserves to be explored because the stability of oil markets and prices is beneficial to oil producers and consumers," he said.

Earlier this week, Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, called on OPEC members to abide by a new stopgap accord reached in Geneva last month.

"The cabinet reiterated the need for OPEC members to abide by the assigned quotas agreed upon (at the Sept. 27 meeting) until the next conference in Vienna on Nov. 25, 1989," said a government statement.

It was carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, received in Nicosia.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) quoted the Libyan and Iraqi oil ministers in separate interviews as urging other OPEC members to stick to the new quotas.

Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates are demanding individual increases in their assigned quotas and have been producing above their OPEC levels.

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

### Jordan agricultural exports surge

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — Jordan exported 393,000 tonnes of vegetables and fruits to Arab and foreign countries in the first nine months of 1989, registering an increase of 103,000 tonnes over the same period of last year, according to a statistical bulletin issued here Wednesday. The bulletin noted that most of the crops went to Gulf countries, mostly to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, with relatively smaller amounts finding their way to European markets. The bulletin noted that tomatoes accounted for nearly 69 per cent of the exports to these countries. The bulletin revealed that in the past month Jordan exported nearly 41,000 tonnes of Jordanian products, while Kuwait bought 11,000 tonnes with lesser quantities sold in Qatar, and Bahrain. According to the bulletin, Jordanian exports included eggplants, lemons, marrows, beans, cucumbers and tomatoes in addition to limited quantities of onions, water melons, potatoes, mallows, and grapes.

### CAEU reviews specific study Saturday

**AMMAN (Petra)** — A study on implementing an integrated economic programme among the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) member states will be reviewed at a CAEU committee meetings due to start in Amman Oct. 7. The three-day meetings will discuss a study dealing with Israel's military economy and its effect on the political and economic situation in the Arab region. Another study will discuss the problems of carrying out national development plans in CAEU member states.

### Islamic banks finance Pakistan

**BAHRAIN (R)** — Masraf Faysal Al Islami, an offshore Islamic bank, said it was arranging a 100 million syndicated trade financing facility for Pakistan. In a statement the bank said the facility for the Rice Export Corporation of Pakistan (PVT) Ltd. was guaranteed by the State Bank of Pakistan. The statement said the deal, signed in Bahrain, was heavily oversubscribed by 20 Islamic banks and financial institutions.

### Tunisia to pursue adjustment plans

**TUNIS (R)** — President Zine Abidine Ben Ali said Tuesday Tunisia would pursue an economic structural adjustment plan recommended by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. "The government will pursue the structural adjustment programme... which remains in force in its application and objectives," Ben Ali said in an address to provincial governors. He added however that the plan would be adapted by increasing investment and employment. Controversy between government members over the extent of the adjustment plan led to the ousting last week of prime minister Hedi Baccouche and his replacement by Hamed Karoui.

### Computer companies reduce staff

**SCHAUMBURG, Illinois (R)** — Computer chip maker Motorola Inc. said Tuesday it would reduce its work force by 2.4 per cent, or 2,500 salaried employees, and take a pre-tax charge of about \$43 million in the third quarter to cover the cost of a voluntary severance programme. Computer giant International Business Machines (IBM) Corp and Cray Research Inc. separately announced that they also would reduce their U.S. work forces by several hundred employees. Motorola said the cuts would be made mostly in its U.S. operations. Motorola said it was taking the "one-time action" to bring some of the company's businesses "into balance with changing business and market conditions." IBM said it was offering voluntary early retirement for 600 to 1,000 employees at plants in New York state, Virginia and Kentucky.

### Tehran Times drums up privatisation

**NICOSIA (R)** — An Iranian newspaper suggested Tuesday that the government should turn state-owned factories over to the private sector. The English-language Tehran Times said many of the factories taken over by the state after the 1979 Islamic revolution were operating below capacity because of bad management. "It may be worth turning things over to the private sector as an experiment," it said in an editorial. The Tehran Times reflects the economic policies of President Ali Rafsanjani who has advocated a bigger role for the private sector since he was elected on July. Rafsanjani was a successful businessman before the revolution and made considerable profits by dealing in property. "Up to now the private sector has lacked the incentives which might have encouraged it to try to make greater headway in the sphere of investments..." the Tehran Times said.

### Yugoslav inflation rockets to 1,181%

**BELGRADE (R)** — Yugoslavia's efforts to emerge from political and economic crisis suffered a shock Tuesday when official data showed annual inflation rocketed to almost 1,200 per cent in September. The Federal Bureau of Statistics said inflation rose by a monthly record of 287.2 percentage points to 1,181 per cent compared with 893.8 per cent in August. In September 1988, inflation stood at 217 per cent. The runaway inflation, by far the highest in a European country.

## Wall Street registers new Dow Jones record

**NEW YORK (R)** — Wall Street roared to record close Tuesday, shaking off its September slump with the help of a stronger dollar and computer trading programmes.

The dollar firmed on buying that was attributed partly to a flight to safety on news of a coup attempt in Panama.

Dealers said Wall Street did not react directly to the news of the coup attempt, although the stronger dollar, which was linked to Panama, supported stocks.

The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 40.84 points to 2,754.56, adding 20 points in a wave of blue chip buying in the final minutes.

The late rally on Wall Street was limited mostly to blue chip stocks with advances leading declines by a modest 597-509 margin Tuesday on the New York Stock Exchange. Volume was at 182.55 million shares, up from 177.4 million Monday.

One analyst said the market jumped on "panic short-covering" as those who earlier sold stocks, expecting the market to fall, rushed to buy back shares. Computer trading programmes activated when the market began to rise helped extend Wall Street

gains. The late rise carried the Dow index past the old record of 2,752.09 set Sept. 1. Stocks have languished through a monthlong correction since then, but recovered this month, starting with Monday's 20-point gain.

Institutions put a little money to work and buy programmes took over and carried the market," said Philip Pacio, head trader at Prudential-Bache Securities Inc.

Shining outlook for U.S. gold mining industry. Meanwhile, gold output from the United States is projected to rise sharply in coming years and will enable the mining industry to export about 85 million grammes of the precious metal annually by 1992, a major trade association said Tuesday.

Billions of dollars in earnings expected from these projected exports are expected to help slash a massive, rising U.S. trade deficit, the Washington-based Gold Institute said in a new survey. "The gold business is booming and the balance of trade impact stemming from increased production is dramatic," said John Lutley, the institute's managing director.

## Tax strike drains French coffers, halts precious sales

**PARIS (R)** — Disgruntled French tax inspectors, who are emptying government coffers, disrupting property sales and snarling customs, Wednesday threatened an all-out stoppage if the government fails to increase their pay.

With selective strike action by France's 180,000 tax, customs and treasury officers hitting just about every sector of economic life, Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy said he would personally take over negotiations.

"Resign. Negotiate," chanted some 50 striking tax inspectors who managed to filter through police lines to harangue ministers leaving Wednesday's weekly cabinet meeting.

Union officials, who are holding back billions of dollars from the state in revenue, are determined not to cave in. The strike

began at the end of May.

"We are ready to talk but we won't stop the strike to sit down at the negotiating table," Jean-Marie Poirot, a leader of the large force Ouvriere trade union, told Reuters. "We may even call an all-out stoppage next week."

The threat came amid complaints from jewellers and property dealers that the finance ministry strike was crippling business.

A spokeswoman for the French jewellers' association said millions of dollars worth of gold was sitting in storage at airports waiting to be stamped with a hallmark that can only be delivered by customs officers.

Precious metals cannot be exported or imported without the French state's hallmark, a small eagle, that guarantees quality. "The strike is now affecting the

man in the street. We're running out of wedding rings," she said. Fruit, vegetables and spirits were being held up for clearance at border crossings with Belgium.

More than 2,000 lorries queued for hours Tuesday when officers had to check their papers without the help of a central computer.

Staff working on headquarters computer systems for both the customs and tax offices have joined the strike and are causing huge administrative delays as well as leaving the government without vital statistics.

The publication of the full August trade figures has been postponed indefinitely.

Poirot said the industrial action had kept 40 to 50 billion francs (\$6 to \$7.5 billion) from the state in VAT payments and income and local taxes.

There was no immediate com-

ment from the finance ministry, but officials there said last week that only nine or 10 billion francs (\$1.3 or \$1.5 billion) were blocked.

At Paris's main Charles De Gaulle airport, customs officers are clearing perishable goods, medicines and diplomatic bags, but working to rule on all other imports.

Sales of real estate, which need tax office and land registry clearance, are being held up for months in parts of France, causing problems for buyers, sellers, solicitors, banks and insurance companies.

"When we resolve one problem, we're faced by a new one," said a spokeswoman for the order of French solicitors. "The situation is becoming critical, specially where large companies and huge investments are concerned."

## Markets expect higher European interest rates

**FRANKFURT (R)** — West German interest rates look set to rise Thursday and, however, reluctantly, much of the rest of Western Europe may have to follow suit.

Markets have rarely been so well primed for a rate rise, widely expected after Thursday's meeting of the policy-making council of the Bundesbank, West Germany's central bank.

Economists predict a rise of half to a full percentage point in the Bundesbank's discount and Lombard rates, currently at five

and seven per cent respectively. Other countries will have to match any move by the powerful West German bank, European bankers and officials believe.

"European monetary policy is, for all practical purposes, decided in Frankfurt," a senior West German banker said, touching a raw nerve in European economic policy relations.

"Whether they want to or not, the others are going to have to join in," a Frankfurt-based economist added.

The Bundesbank's latest eco-

nomic report said West German interest rates were relatively low and Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl has been wondering out loud if interest rate levels were consistent with the pace of economic growth.

Inflation is now just over three per cent, but the Bundesbank worries that prices could start rising more quickly with the economy surging and industrial capacity stretched.

West Germany has often drawn fire from its European partners who charge that the Bundesbank is obsessed with inflation and dictates monetary policy in Europe.

Other countries have to match higher German interest rates or risk inflation from a depreciation of their currencies as investment funds flow into the more attractive mark.

Dutch Finance Minister Omro

Roeding made an indirect appeal to the Bundesbank not to raise rates 10 days ago, saying they were already high, especially in Europe.

But economists say the Netherlands, Austria and Switzerland—countries with strong anti-inflationary policies—would go with the Bundesbank if it moves rates Thursday.

France, which steadfastly rules out a depreciation of the franc against the mark, would also probably raise rates. A Belgian central bank source said his country would follow any "substantial (German) rate increase."

A question mark remains over Italy and Britain. Italian analysts said their interest rates would hold steady. "Italian rates are too high, not too low," said Stefano Micossi, chief economist at the employers' federation Confindustria.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, October 4, 1989

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	437.5	441.9
U.S. dollar	619.9	625.9	Dutch guilder	280.7	283.6
Pound Sterling	922.7	1002.6	Swedish crown	95.8	96.8
Deutsche mark	328.2	331.5	Italian lire (for 100)	45.0	45.5
Swiss franc	378.6	382.4	Belgian franc (for 10)	156.5	158.1
French franc	96.7	97.7			

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

**LONDON (R)** — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6075/85	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1745/55	Canadian dollar	
	1.8750/57	Deutsche mark	
	2.1188/95	Dutch guilders	
	1.6252/62	Swiss francs	
	39.41/44	Belgian francs	
	6.3600/50	French francs	
	1372/1373	Italian lire	
	140.80/90	Japanese yen	
	6.4325/75	Swedish crowns	
	6.9250/300	Norwegian crowns	
	7.3050/100	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	365.95/366.25	U.S. dollars	

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

**TOKYO** — Share prices barely budged through the day and ended mixed to moderate turnover. The Nikkei index rose 16.43 points to 35,382.80.

**HONG KONG** — The Hang Seng share index ended at a post-June 4 record, up 7.74 to 2,794.39, after profit-taking brought it down from more than 2,800 earlier in the day.

**BOMBAY** — Shares fell sharply for the second day after doubts about rumours of moves to decontrol steel prices sparked heavy long liquidation.

**FRANKFURT** — The market ended higher on moderate turnover despite expectations that the Bundesbank will raise interest rates Thursday. The Real-Time 30-share Dax Index ended 10.87 points higher at 1,613.27.

**ZURICH** — Shares closed higher across the board in moderate trading. The All-Share Swiss Performance Index rose 11.3 to 1,178.8 points.

**PARIS** — French share prices were firm at midsession but off opening. The CAC-40 index was 8.12 points higher at 1,902.72 at 1220 GMT.

**LONDON** — Share prices remained weak with traders worried over sterling's stability and many forecasting a rise in West German interest rates. The FTSE 100 was 6.2 points down at 2,312.4. By 1535 GMT.

**NEW YORK** — Profit-taking kept the market mixed after two days of strong gains to a record close on Tuesday. The Dow was slightly up at 2,758 by 1600 GMT.

## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Every blade of grass is one of God's living creations — and you want me to murder them all with the lawn mower!!!"

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Yesterday's Jumbles: STOOP BRIBE DRAGON SURTAX  
Answer: Dipping your bread into gravy may be bad manners—but it's certainly also this—  
"GOOD TASTE"

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp





## McEnroe, Lendl beaten Aouita: Ban drug-users for life

STUTTGART, West Germany (R) — Ivan Lendl and John McEnroe both fell victim to low-ranked players in their opening matches in the \$350,000 Stuttgart Classic tennis event Tuesday.

World number one Lendl was upset 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) by Henri Leconte of France, who looked extra sharp in a comeback from injury.

McEnroe went down 7-5, 7-6 (11-9) to West German Davis Cup player Carl-Uwe Steeb, ranked 16 places below the American at 20th in the world.

West German world number two Boris Becker headed confidently towards a semifinal place in group one of the Round-Robin event with a straightforward 6-2, 6-3 victory over Argentine clay-court specialist Alberto Mancini, his second victory of the event.

Leconte, struggling to get back in the world top 20 on his return to the circuit following a back operation in May, took just 85 minutes to beat Lendl in group two.

"Today's match gives me a lot of confidence for the future," he said afterwards.

But Lendl, an easy victor over the left-handed Frenchman on clay at last week's Bordeaux

Grand Prix, seemed far from worried by the shock defeat.

"It doesn't hurt that much," the Czechoslovak said. "I have not played indoors for some months and I need to get used to it."

Steeb, who has made rapid progress in the world rankings since he helped West Germany to victory in the Davis Cup final last year, looks set to book one of the two places from group two in the semifinals with his second win of the event.

Steeb, roared on by the home crowd, appeared to be cruising to victory when he took a 4-1 lead in the second set before McEnroe battled back to 4-4 and went on to force the set to a tie-break.

But 22-year-old Steeb kept his nerve to take the tie-break 11-9 and seal the match in one hour 53 minutes.

**JORDAN TIMES**  
Tel: 667171

### Jordan to hold Child Fair

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah an International Child Fair will be held Oct. 8 at King Abdullah Complex. The fair, organised by Jordan Ice Skating Centre, will include the skating, visiting the ghost castle, kids rides and folkloric and traditional shows.

## Graf, Evans named sportswomen of year

NEW YORK (AP) — Tennis grand slam winner Steffi Graf of West Germany and Olympic swimming champion Janet Evans of the United States were named sportswomen of the year Tuesday by the Women's Sports Foundation.

The 10-year-old women's sports lobby also inducted four athletes into its hall of fame. Graf was named professional sportswoman of the year. Evans, who won three gold medals for the United States at the 1988 Seoul games, was chosen as the outstanding amateur.

"I want to thank my parents, they've been with me all the way," Evans, 18, said at a news conference announcing the awards.

"And they're with me today," she added, gesturing to the rear of the room.

Evans, who won the 400-metre and 800-metre freestyle events and the 400-metre individual medley at the 1988 games, now is preparing for college competition as a first-year student at Stanford.

Graf, who won a Federation Cup match Tuesday in Japan, could not attend the awards announcement.

Last year, Graf, 20, became the sixth player ever to win the grand slam — Wimbledon and the U.S., Australian and French opens — and the first since Margaret Court in 1970. Graf also was an Olympic gold medalist at Seoul.

Graf won \$1.3 million in prize money last year and was unbeaten in 46 matches from May 9 to Nov. 18. She has been the top-ranked woman player in the world since Aug. 16, 1987.

Graf won the Australian Open this year to extend her grand slam streak to five before losing to Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in the French Open.

Inducted into the women's sports hall of fame were former Wimbledon champion Evonne Goolagong-Cawley, former softball player Joan Joyce, figure skater Theresa Weld Blanchard and Fencer Ilona Schachner-Elek.

## Maradona keeps open future transfer

PARIS (R) — Argentina's errant World Cup captain Diego Maradona held open the possibility of a future transfer from Napoli to French club Marseille in an interview with the weekly France Football published Tuesday.

Maradona, who returned to Italy last month after Napoli began legal action against him for breaking his contract by extending his summer holidays in Argentina, said his relations with club president Corrado Ferlaino were cold.

He said the attempts by Olympique de Marseille's millionaire boss Bernard Tapie to take him to France in the close season were serious and attractive.

"Everything is clear about the future of Olympique," he said. "It's an attractive project for any footballer and you should not forget that Maradona is, above all else, a player who loves his job."

"They were offering me the same amount as at Naples, not a franc more, I give my word. But the villa that Bernard Tapie promised me was very tempting, as was the prospect of the different education I could offer to my daughters and the quality of life for my family."

Maradona said he had told Marseille they should speak to Ferlaino about the deal but that he had also discussed the topic with the Napoli president.

"We thought it would be better to wait until the end of the season before deciding what to do," he added.

Tapie, who spent more than seven million dollars in the sum-



Diego Maradona

mer in an attempt to build a side capable of winning the European Cup, has frequently expressed his interest in signing the Argentine. Maradona, who at one time threatened to tear up his contract with Napoli and quit soccer, said he had returned to play for the

team in gratitude to the Naples fans who had continued to support him. But he said his threat to give up the game had been serious and that he could not accept Italian newspaper reports linking him with the Mafia and drug-trafficking.

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**GOREN BRIDGE**

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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**THAT EXTRA CHANCE**

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ J 4  
♥ K J 6 3 2  
♦ J 5  
♣ K J 8 3

**WEST**  
♠ 10 8  
♥ Q 10 7 4  
♦ 10 9 8 2  
♣ 7 5 4

**EAST**  
♠ 7 6  
♥ 9 8  
♦ K Q 7 6 4  
♣ Q 10 9 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K Q 9 5 3 2  
♥ A 5  
♦ A 3  
♣ 6

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
4 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass  
5 NT Pass 6 ♠ Pass  
7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

If two chances are better than one, three chances are surely better than two. But there was still one more possibility that declarer could have tried in his grand slam.

South's two-club bid was artificial and forcing, and the rest of the auction was natural. South elected to bid a grand slam even though he was missing a king because, if North had had the queen in either of his suits, declarer could count 13 tricks.

The opening diamond lead was covered by the jack and queen and won by the ace. Declarer drew trumps in two rounds, then cashed the ace-king of hearts. When the queen didn't drop, declarer tried a heart ruff in an effort to bring down the lady. When that failed, declarer fell back on his last resort—the club finesse. Down two.

Very unlucky. Yet, the grand slam was a laydown on the actual distribution. After winning the first trick, declarer should lay down a high trump from hand. Next he should cash the ace and king of hearts to see if the queen drops. When both defenders follow, declarer can claim his slam even though her majesty has not appeared.

Declarer ruffs a heart as East discards a diamond, crosses to dummy with the jack of spades, in the process drawing the outstanding trumps, and ruffs another heart to set up a long card in the suit. The king of clubs is still in dummy as an entry to the good heart, and that provides a parking place for declarer's diamond loser.

Available for a limited time as a special offer is a two-for-one package of DOUBLES booklets. For your copies send \$3 to "GOREN DOUBLES," care of the newspaper, P.O. Box 426, Orlan- do, Fla. 32802-426. Make checks payable to "Newspaperbooks."

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**FRIDAY'S RACES AT THE ROYAL RACING CLUB-TUNEIB**

**FIRST RACE 3.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES**

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mohammed Salim Khatib	M. Ramzy	Owner	A. Jageel	58
2- Lorence & Thair El Hadeed	Safieh	Owner	Yousef	58
3- Tahir Salameh Hamad	S. Tahir	Owner	Ahmed	58
4- Mohammed Salim Nebolsy	Sibash	Owner	George	54.5
5- Yousef Rashed	Amwaj	Owner	Saad	54.5
6- Soud Miteb El Falez	A. Mona	Owner	Anwar	54.5
7- Aly Bin Zoboun	Isal	Owner	Owner	54.5
8- Hassan Aly El Daham	N. Hassan	Owner	Kasim	54.5
9- Adnan Radwan	Sidra	Owner	Rashed	54.5
10- Shihedh Aly Fokara	F. Rady	Owner	Salamh	54.5
11- Salim Mohammed A. Rawas	A. Jadelal	Owner	Samy	53
12- Tahir Yousef Awawidh	C. Tahir	Owner	Basil	50
13- Abdullah El Dawoud	Ghobar	Owner	Hiary	50

**SECOND RACE 3.25 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES**

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- H.H. Late Sheriff Nasir Stable	Fozan	Abbas	Kasim	58
2- Meshour Faleel A. Jneib	Shafat	Owner	Owner	58
3- Khalid Hamad Ayad	Borkan	Owner	Mostafa	58
4- Lorence Hazea El Hadeed	El Hadee	Owner	Yousef	54.5
5- Faleed Lazem El Neel	Jamilh	Owner	Mousa	54.5
6- Nimr El Hrouad	Dinar	Rida	Hiary	50
7- Faleed Khalil Haddadin	Hanady	Owner	Jamal	48.5

**THIRD RACE 3.50 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES**

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Tahir Mithal El Falez	N. Um El Amad	Owner	Sahy	58
2- Hamdan Manour	M. Hamdan	Owner	Owner	58
3- Ahmad Khamees	Fattah	Owner	A. Jageel	58
4- Khalid Mohammed Turtory	S. Eljazirh	Owner	Yousef	58
5- Mohammed Hamdan El Adwan	Faleely	Owner	Ahmed	58
6- Robie Adnan A. Hassan	D. Rabla	Owner	George	54.5
7- Farhan Faleh Oudh	Shahrah	Owner	Owner	54.5
8- Dr. A. El Naem A. Wandy	S. Maen	Owner	Hiary	53
9- Rashed Yousef Hamdan	F. Rashed	Owner	Anwar	51.5
10- Mithal Miteb El Falez	Hanea	Owner	Kasim	51.5
11- Shihedh Aly Fokara	N. Nolel	Owner	Salamh	51.5
12- Aly A. El Azees	Jako	Owner	Basil	50
13- Ahmad Said Ihaiel	N. Kalkour	Owner	Owner	50

**FOURTH RACE 4.15 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES**

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Harry El Hadeed	Rose	Owner	Mousa	58.5
2- Oudallah Mary Hamdan	H. Mary	Owner	Salamh	58.5
3- Najla Wael Baharat	Mashahel	Owner	Khalid	58.5
4- Ibrahim Hany Baharat	F. Khair	Owner	Jamal	58
5- Salim Mohammed A. Rawas	El Mayas	Owner	Owner	58
6- Nimr El Hrouad	Ibn Rabadan	Owner	Hiary	58
7- Manour Anwar El Shalan	Salamh	Owner	Mohsin	53.5
8- Nolel Anwar El Shalan	Murrah	Owner	Kasim	53.5
9- Nawal Anwar El Shalan	Reed	Zaidan	George	50

**FIFTH RACE 4.40 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES**

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Kamel Wael Baharat	H. El Roman	Khalid	Jamal	62
2- Manour Anwar El Shalan	Mashahel	Owner	Kasim	61
3- Ghafir Haddadin	B. Tamouh	Owner	Owner	58
4- Aly Fared El Saad	J. El Saad	Khalid	Rashed	58
5- Aly Fared El Saad	Saad Aly	Khalid	Saleh	55.5
6- Najla Wael Baharat	M. Dina	Khalid	Saad	54
7- Nawal Anwar El Shalan	Abshir	Zaidan	George	50
8- Fawaz Anwar El Shalan	El Asy	Owner	Owner	50

**THE Daily Crossword by James Barick**

**ACROSS**

1. Name a motor
5. Sharp
9. Head's girl
13. Energy type
14. Show his
15. Sunny
16. Callus
18. Red source
17. Fishing and
19. Dr. colomade
21. Borneo
22. A pronoun
23. Pains a
24. A certain way
25. More
26. Unpleasant
27. — doudoureaux
28. — a tick—
29. Get out!
30. Depot abbr.
34. Cactus
35. Medicine
36. Chest bone
40. Hospital
41. Pungent abbr.
42. SLE abbr.
43. Simply
44. Depend
45. Enforce
46. Deteriorate
48. Top
51. Above
53. Have being
54. Perished
55. Filled woman
57. Like a horse
58. After
59. Hemingway
62. Bouquet name
63. Military group
64. Skin disease
65. Salvo's static
66. Aromatic
67. Sides off.

**DOWN**

1. No longer
2. Tuber name
3. Upright
4. Dipper
5. — Dushi
6. New Year's
7. Throat river
8. River
9. Ring
10. Baltimore bird
11. Fish
12. Cocktail
13. — Altes
14. Shrike's sp.
15. Wall and
16. — abbr.
17. 24
18. Imperfectly
19. Spicy
20. 31
21. Cactus
22. — bowl
23. Spring time
24. Occupy
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# Angolans take their war to Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Angola's Marxist government and the U.S.-armed rebels opposing it are waging their battle in Washington's public relations arena this week, each hoping to win support for its political survival.

The U.S. government is holding open house for both sides, scheduling meetings with Angolan Foreign Minister Pedro and Dunem — despite the absence of diplomatic relations with his government — and a White House meeting between Jonas Savimbi, leader of the Angolan rebels, and President George Bush.

In addition, the Bush administration is urging Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko to pay a quick visit to Washington this week to hold a reconciliation meeting with Savimbi.

Mobutu had supported Savimbi and served as the funnel of U.S. arms to the rebel leaders' National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). But Mobutu appears to have shifted his allegiance in recent weeks, openly supporting Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

The U.S. efforts are designed to head off the collapse of Zairean-mediated truce accords reached last June between Savimbi, one of the largest recipients of U.S. covert aid, and the Soviet-backed government.

The truce collapsed soon after it went into effect, and subsequent negotiations between the

sides to discuss a permanent agreement ending their 14-year civil war have failed despite persistent state department efforts.

UNITA is demanding free elections and a change in the country's Marxist-oriented constitution. Savimbi denies claims by dos Santos that he agreed to go into exile and to integrate his troops into Angola's army, calling such claims a ruse to destroy UNITA politically, the government having failed to do so militarily.

The two sides have refused to sit in the same room during negotiations.

In a Washington last weekend, Savimbi said he was prepared to meet with the Angolan Foreign Ministry delegation, which is to arrive Wednesday.

He also is urging a more active U.S. role in the negotiations with Angola, similar to the American diplomacy which helped bring about last December's complex agreement for the pullout of 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola and the granting of independence to Namibia, which has been controlled by South Africa.

Savimbi, who received his guerrilla training in China and until last year got most of his military support from South Africa, is aided by a high-profile array of lobbyists and lawyers, led by the firm of Black, Manafort Stone and Kelly.

His nearly week-long agenda is packed with meetings on Capitol

Hill, at the State Department and White House, as well as with reporters and businessmen seeking a foothold in mineral-rich Angola.

Van Dunem is coming to Washington only for one day, but his lobbyists and supporters have organized meetings with state department officials and reporters, too.

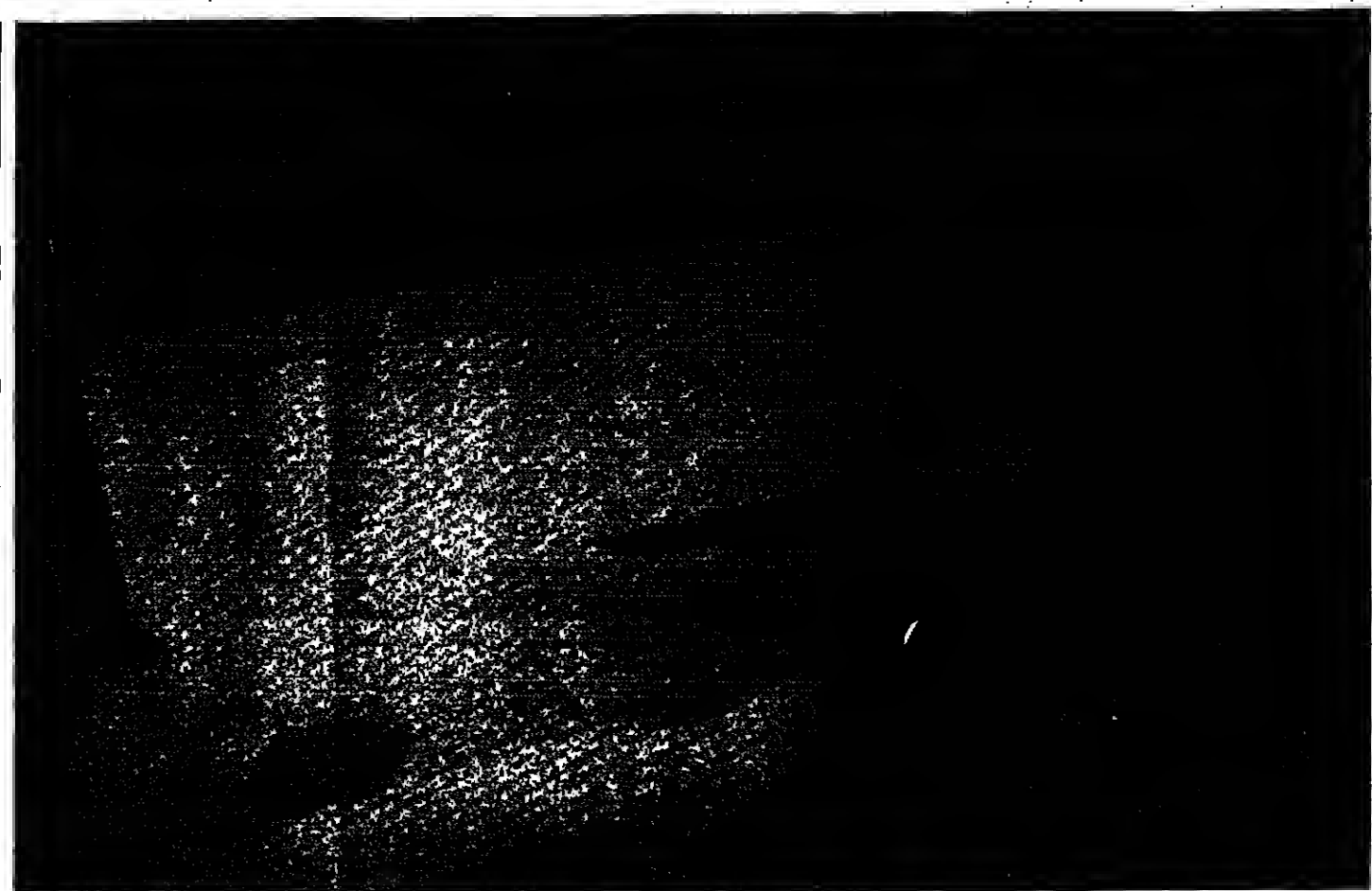
His side-trip to Washington from the U.N. General Assembly in New York is viewed by State Department officials as an attempt to counter the effects of Savimbi's visit.

A kit distributed by Fenton Communications, the firm which handles Angola's public relations, includes a list of demonstrations planned this week against Savimbi as well as copies of recent newspaper articles critical of the rebel leader.

Half-page ads this week in the Washington Post and the New York Times, paid for by the Angolan government, said Savimbi would press for more covert aid to augment the \$40 million UNITA is already getting.

The ads cited an article in the National Review, which described UNITA as having "a classic Marxist-Leninist structure with not a vestige of democratic procedures."

Angola's supporters in Congress say dos Santos has accepted an invitation to visit Washington before the end of the year and explain his view of the disputed June accords with UNITA.



Imelda Marcos stands by the ornate casket of her late husband, former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, on view in their Makiki Heights home in Honolulu. The Philippine presidential seal is displayed on the wall in the background.

## Cabinet backs Aquino ban on Marcos

MANILA (AP) — The cabinet endorsed Wednesday the ban on burying Ferdinand Marcos' body in the Philippines after the defense chief briefed them on an alleged plot to assassinate President Corazon Aquino. Officials said.

Presidential spokesman Adolfo Azuma said the "sensitive information" on reputed security threats to the government was discussed during the cabinet session, but he refused to elaborate.

Economic Planning Secretary Jesus Estanislao said, however, that Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos briefed members on the security risks facing the government if Aquino allowed the body of the former president to be buried here.

Marcos, 72, died in Honolulu last Thursday. He had lived in exile in Hawaii since he was toppled in a popular uprising that propelled Aquino to power in February 1986.

Aquino has refused to allow the body to be brought back to the Philippines for burial and also forbade the late president's widow, Imelda, and their three children from coming back.

"There are destabilization threats," Estanislao told the AP. "He (Ramos) presented intelligence reports including the possible assassination of the president."

Estanislao would not say whether Ramos provided details of any alleged plot, nor whether the defense chief identified those who allegedly were behind it.

"One thing you must realize is that there are parties abroad who are very interested in destabilization, including Marcos," he added. "And there are parties here who are interested in destabilization. These two parties can act together."

Marcos' followers have been linked to several of the six armed attempts to topple Aquino since she took over.

But since Marcos' death, demonstrations by his followers have been relatively small and peaceful.

Agriculture Secretary Carlos Dominguez said the cabinet was unanimous in its support for the controversial decision, despite growing public pressure to allow Marcos' body to be returned.

"We have supported the president since the beginning on her stand," Dominguez said. "There is no question in the cabinet as to the position we are taking. We support the president's stand."

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court agreed to consider a petition from Marcos' supporters to overturn the ban and give the government 10 days to respond.

Aquino says she will abide by the court's decision, but claims Marcos' burial here could lead to civil unrest and discourage foreign investment needed by the country's debt-ridden government.

If Imelda Marcos makes the request in writing and Philippines President Corazon Aquino agrees, the body of Marcos may lie in state for a few hours at the Philippine consulate in Honolulu — in a room dedicated to Aquino's late husband.

Philippine Consul General Tomas "Buddy" Gomez made the offer Tuesday following a shouting match on the consulate steps with Marcos supporters angered because the Philippines flag was not lowered to half-staff in memory of Marcos' death last Thursday.

Gomez said he didn't order the flag to be lowered because he had no instruction from Manila to do so.

The slaying, which many Filipinos blamed on Marcos and his supporters, galvanized the opposition to Marcos that led to the people's revolt that brought Aquino's widow to power.

## U.S. officers said to have offered help to Panama rebels

WASHINGTON (R) — Senior U.S. military officers gave "tacit" assurances of support to rebellious soldiers who tried to oust Panamanian leader General Manuel Noriega in a coup, the Washington Times newspaper said Wednesday.

The rightwing paper said officers at the U.S. Southern Command in Panama, where about 12,000 U.S. troops are based, "led the rebels to believe they would get crucial U.S. military help."

Loyalist troops crushed the revolt Tuesday after a rebel unit attacked the headquarters of the Panama defense forces in Panama City.

Heavy fighting broke out there and elsewhere in the city before Noriega regained control.

President George Bush, reportedly to have earmarked more than \$10 million to overthrow Noriega in one of his first acts on taking office in January, denied the coup attempt was "an American operation."

The Washington Times, quoting congressional sources who were briefed by senior officials, said the U.S. officers gave the rebels "tacit" assurances the Southern Command would back up the 30 or so officers and 1,000

troops who started the five-hour revolt.

The assurances were offered Monday when U.S. officers were tipped off that a coup was being prepared, it said.

An administration official denied the United States had given any assurances to the rebels. "We never promised anybody anything," he said.

Bush, sensitive to other countries' concerns about U.S. intervention in their domestic affairs, insisted Tuesday that the coup was not engineered by Washington.

"There were rumors around that this is some American operation. I can tell you that is not true," he told reporters while the outcome was still in doubt.

Secretary of State James Baker, choosing his words with equal care, said: "Let me simply say the United States did not initiate this."

But he evaded a question about whether Washington had provided intelligence or other help to the rebels, saying he would not comment on intelligence matters.

After Noriega was indicted in Florida in February 1988 as an alleged accomplice of Colombia's Medellin cocaine cartel, the Reagan administration imposed

sanctions aimed at forcing him out of Panama to stand trial in the United States.

His overthrow became a major U.S. goal after Noriega annulled May 7 presidential elections that, by virtually all accounts except his own, were won by the opposition.

Then President Ronald Reagan signed a secret directive in July 1988 authorizing the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to foment a coup against Noriega, U.S. News and World Report said last May.

The Senate Intelligence Committee vetoed the plan because it could lead to Noriega's assassination, it said. The U.S. government is barred by law from participating in assassinations.

U.S. News said Bush, in one of his first intelligence initiatives, signed such a "finding" of his own launching a covert operation to oust Noriega.

It described the Bush program, approved by the congressional oversight panels, as providing the CIA with more than \$10 million to bolster Noriega's foes.

Noriega, appearing on television after the revolt was crushed, accused the United States of responsibility for the second coup attempt in 18 months.

## South Africa hangs 3 blacks

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa hanged three blacks convicted of murder Wednesday but a white man condemned for rape was granted a last-minute stay of execution, the Justice Ministry said.

The execution of Khethokule Nchunu, Samuel Mogobolo and Alpheus Thantsha at Pretoria Central Prison at dawn brought the number of people hanged so far in South Africa this year to 42, the ministry said. Fifty-two others have been reprieved.

Leon Faasen, sentenced to death for rape, was granted a temporary stay of execution in order that he could petition president F.W. de Klerk with further information about his case.

According to the London-based human rights group Amnesty International, 537 people, most of them black, were hanged between 1985 and 1988, giving South Africa the world's third highest execution rate.

Two South Africans, one a black member of the African National Congress guerrilla group fighting Pretoria's white rule, were hanged last week, despite a last-minute appeal for clemency from the U.N. General Assembly.

They were the first executions under the administration of de Klerk and dashed hopes of civil rights lawyers and pressure groups that the new head of state, who was sworn in last month

### Natal fighting

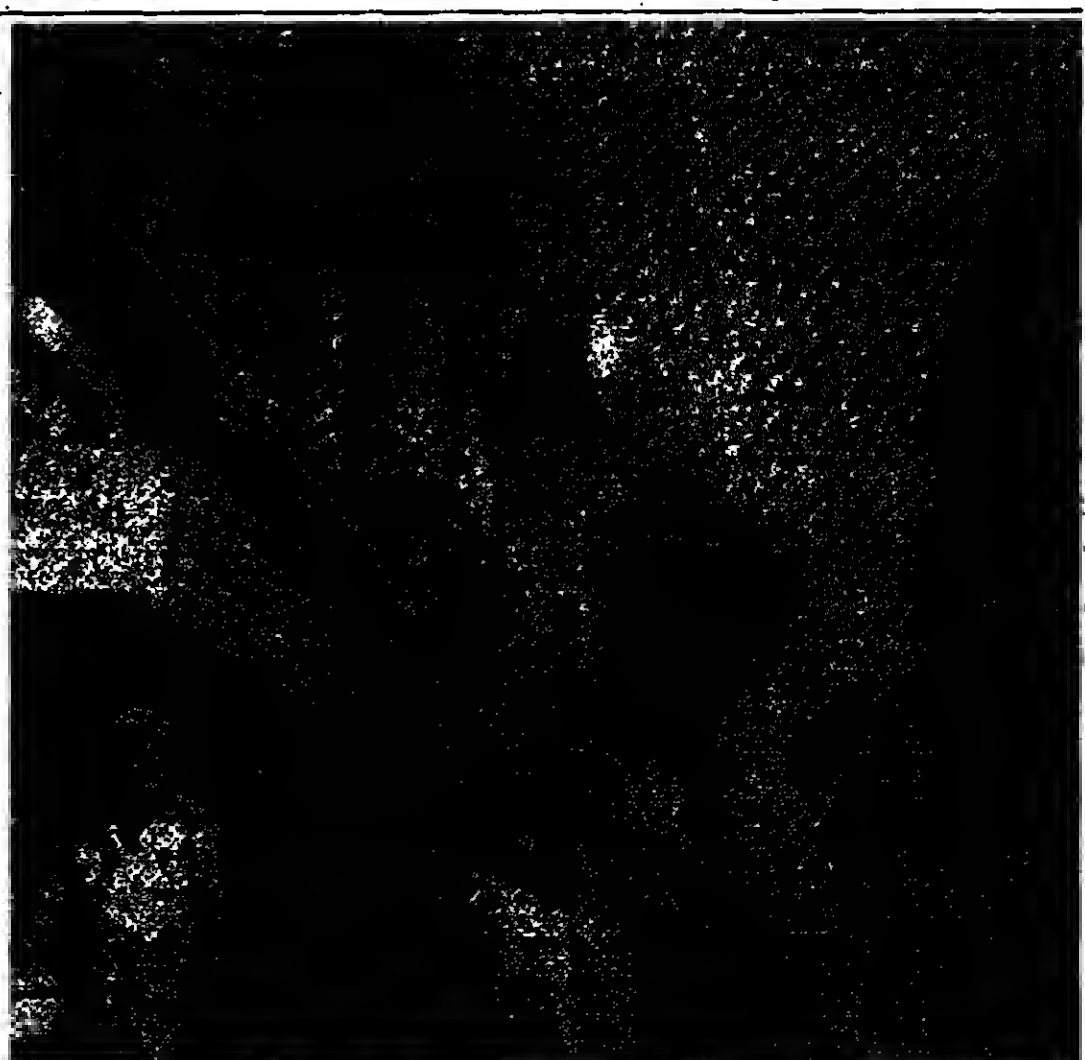
Police Wednesday reported seven more killings in Natal province, where the breakdown of peace talks between black factions has been accompanied by some of the worst bloodshed of a three-year-old power struggle.

The feud has claimed at least 15 lives so far this month, and monitoring groups say more than 95 people were killed last month, when negotiations reached an impasse between leaders of militant anti-apartheid groups and the more conservative Zulu political organization Inkatha.

The current peace initiative started in June, and the monthly death toll dropped by more than half, to about 40, as both sides issued positive statements.

But Inkatha, headed by influential Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, last month suspended its participation in the talks because it felt the other side remained hostile.

Opposing Inkatha are supporters of the United Democratic front, a nationwide anti-apartheid coalition, and the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the largest black labour federation.



An elderly Muslim returns home after afternoon prayers in Colombo during a brief army ceasefire against Sinhalese rebels.

## Sinhalese violence kills 21, troops arrest 48 rebels

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Suspected Sinhalese extremists killed at least 21 people as the military resumed operations against the rebels, arresting 48 suspected militants, the government said Wednesday.

A young lawyer, Neville Nissanka, was killed Tuesday by unidentified gunmen in Miriswatte village, 25 kilometres northeast of Colombo, said a statement by the government.

The statement blamed the People's Liberation Front for his slaying and said 20 other people were killed by guerrillas from the Sinhalese group.

In military operations since Tuesday, 40 suspected extremists were arrested in Colombo and eight other districts in scattered operations in southern and central Sri Lanka, the statement said.

The two areas are the stronghold of the front, an ultra-nationalist Sinhalese group advocating an armed overthrow of the

Sinhalese-dominated government. At least 5,000 people have been killed in the front's two-year-old campaign of political killings.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa last week suspended military operations in a bid to end the violence and allow the extremists to surrender. But the front rejected his peace effort.

The government says the guerrillas killed at least 80 civilians and burned 47 government buildings during the temporary one-sided truce that began Sept. 26.

On Tuesday, the government announced it was suspending the cease-fire and resuming counter-insurgency operations.

Wednesday's statement said 1,149 subversives, the official term for the militants, has surrendered during the cease-fire.

The front wants Premadasa to resign, saying he came to power through fraudulent elections held in December 1988. It also contends the government is sponsor-

ing genocide, killing civilians believed to be sympathisers of the group. Many deaths are blamed on shadowy pro-government death squads.

When it started the campaign in 1987, the front opposed the government's peace overtures to Tamil rebels in the northeast and the presence of Indian peacekeeping soldiers.

The soldiers were invited to supervise an India-brokered peace accord aimed at pacifying the Tamil rebels who have been fighting for a separate nation since 1983. India has said it will withdraw the troops by Dec. 31.

The Tamils' demands grew out of complaints of discrimination in jobs and education by the Sinhalese, who make up 75 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people.

Sinhalese also control the government and the military. Tamils make up 15 per cent of the population.

## COLUMN

### Court rules in favour of Hurt

NEW YORK (AP) — No common-law marriage exists between William Hurt and Sandra Jennings, a judge ruled Tuesday, precluding Hurt's former live-in lover from claiming nearly half the actor's movie millions. State Supreme Court Justice Jacqueline Silbermann said that the relationship was illicit when it began because Hurt was married to someone else, and that it did not become legitimate simply because he got divorced. "Absent proof of a mutual agreement to be married, an agreement to marry cannot be inferred from the fact that the parties were living together," the judge said. "The contrary is true." If the judge had determined the two were married under common law, Jennings could have pursued up to half Hurt's earnings. The decision did not deal with support for the couple's six-year-old son, Alexander Devon Hurt. Jennings' lawyer, A. Richard Golub, called the ruling a "joke" and said he would appeal. The judge is "so madly in love with this defendant, Bill Hurt, that we never could have gotten a fair shake," he said. "If we had won, I would have been shocked." Golub said Jennings, a former dancer, sued Hurt for equitable distribution of his assets, estimated by Golub at \$5 million to \$7 million, after Hurt refused to increase financial support to her and their son. Under an agreement between Hurt and Jennings, he was paying them \$60,000 to \$65,000 a year.

### 'Pensioners abroad never die'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The secret to eternal life for Americans may be retirement abroad — at least for people who receive U.S. government benefits. Judging from available records, such people never die; they just keep collecting their checks, the inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services told Congress Tuesday. "Those programme benefits go on forever and ever," Inspector General Richard Kusserow told the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. Kusserow said the government doesn't know how widespread the problem is, or how costly, or where it is greatest, because this depends on local governments and the state department to validate deaths and let Washington know when checks should be stopped. "In rural Mexico or the Philippines... a local constabulary is going to stop a benefit from going into a village? No," he told the panel. Kusserow said he's also suspicious of the long lifespans of people who retire to Poland, where the benefits are distributed through the government. But there is no evidence of wrongdoing, he said. The panel's chairman, Senator John Glenn, suggested proof could be found "when you have people who are obviously 120 years old" collecting benefits.

### French army to get designer uniforms

PARIS (AP) — The French army may be cutting back on conventional weapons in its latest budget, but at least it will have the best dressed soldiers that ever marched down the Champs-Elysees. Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement revealed in a radio interview Tuesday that the army has retained Balmain, one of France's top haute couture fashion houses, to design new uniforms for the army of 1991. But for now, it's all still bush-bush. "Yes, it's going to help us win the war," chuckled one army major, who for obvious reasons declined to be identified further. Out will be those dowdy old khakis.

## Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	10	15	Cloudy
ATHENS	15	17	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	24	25	Clear
BANGKOK	24	31	Clear
BUENOS AIRES	21	24	Clear
CAROL	27	32	Clear
CHICAGO	03	12	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	05	11	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	00	12	Clear
GENEVA	07	14	Clear
HONG KONG	26	28	Clear
ISTANBUL	12	14	Cloudy
LONDON	13	15	Clear
LOS ANGELES	16	21	Clear
MADRID	14	27	Clear
MECCA	28	29	Clear
MONTREAL	05	11	Cloudy
MOSCOW	03	07	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	22	32	Clear
NEW YORK	13	20	Clear
PARIS	08	14	Clear
ROME	08	14	Clear
STOCKHOLM	06	10	Cloudy
TOKYO	16	20	Cloudy
VIENNA	09	14	Cloudy

## Court upholds Barco decree allowing extradition

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The Supreme Court has upheld President Virgilio Barco's decree allowing extradition of accused drug bosses to the United States, but overturned his order to seize their ranches, mansions and other property.

The decisions Tuesday preserve Barco's main weapon in his government's unprecedented crackdown on cocaine traffickers, who have used murder, bribery and intimidation to thwart Colombian efforts to bring them to justice.

But the decision on confiscation of property eliminates the military's power to confiscate

such property at will.

The 24-member court's ruling means the government may have to return more than 1,000 confiscated homes, ranches, mansions, office buildings and other property reported to belong to cocaine-smuggling barons.

Colombian television said the high court would support the government's right to confiscate the property of drug traffickers, but such action would first need the approval of a lower court.

The high court met as the government's crackdown on Colombia's drug cartels was in its seventh week.

Colombian bosses are unable to intimidate U.S. judges the traffickers fear extradition. Since 1981, about 50 Colombian judges have been killed in attacks blamed on the drug gangs.

Traffickers of the Medellin cocaine cartel said last month in a letter to Barco that they prefer a grave in Colombia to life in a U.S. jail.

On Sept. 6, Colombia extradited Eduardo Martinez, an economist reputed to work for the Medellin cartel. Martinez was sent to Atlanta to face charges of laundering millions of alleged profits from cocaine smuggling.